MARVEL MASTERWORKS

BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

PRESENTS

VOLUME 5

COLLECTING

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 131-140

& ANNUAL No. 2

STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY

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# MARVEL MASTERWORKS
## CREDITS

THE
## MIGHTY THOR
NOS. 131-140 & ANNUAL NO. 2

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# MARVEL MASTERWORKS
## CONTENTS


Introduction by Stan Lee

*The Mighty Thor #131, August 1966*
"They Strike from Space!"
"The Warlock's Eye!"

*The Mighty Thor #132, September 1966*
"Rigel: Where Gods May Fear to Tread!"
"The Dark Horse of Death!"

*The Mighty Thor #133, October 1966*
"Behold…the Living Planet!"
"Valhalla!"

*The Mighty Thor #134, November 1966*
"The People-Breeders!"
"When Speaks the Dragon!"

*The Mighty Thor #135, December 1966*
"The Maddening Menace of the Super-Beast!"
"The Fiery Breath of Fafnir!"

*The Mighty Thor #136, January 1967*
"To Become an Immortal!"
"There Shall Come a Miracle!"

*The Mighty Thor Annual #2, 1966*
"If Asgard Falls.."

*The Mighty Thor #137, February 1967*
"The Thunder God and The Troll!"
"The Tragedy of Hogun!"

*The Mighty Thor #138, March 1967*
"The Flames of Battle!"
"The Quest for the Mystic Mountain!"

*The Mighty Thor #139, April 1967*
"To Die Like a God!"
"The Secret of the Mystic Mountain!"

*The Mighty Thor #140, May 1967*
"The Growing Man!"
"The Battle Begins!"

# INTRODUCTION
## BY STAN LEE

Hi, Heroes,

Just when you thought it was safe to return to Asgard, here I am with another idiosyncratic intro for you! However, I'm gonna keep it real brief because no unforgettable words of mine can equal the spectacle and excitement you're gonna find on the pages that follow.

But first, have you ever wondered what's the toughest thing about writing these awesome Asgardian adventures? Well, wonder no longer. It's trying to find villains strong enough to give the mighty God of Thunder a real battle. Jack Kirby and I scratched our heads for hours (one of the reasons I'm so thin on top now) coming up with some of the macabre menaces you're gonna meet, like the savage Space Colonizers, Ulik the Terrible Troll and wouldja believe, Ego the Living Planet?!—And that's just for starters!

It's only fair to mention that these issues are where Thor really starts to go "cosmic," as his adventures incorporate a science fiction quality involving other planets and outer-space aliens of every type imaginable—and some that are totally unimaginable!

But, despite all the world-destroying villains and cosmic battles, I still have a soft spot in my heart for Thor's three ill-assorted buddies—Hogun the Grim, Fandral the Dashing and, most of all, my all-time favorite, that boastful, bigger-than-life, braggart—Thor's corpulent, king-sized, cohort—the vainglorious, vituperative, vacuum-headed, voluminous Volstagg—to me, one of the greatest characters of his type since Falstaff! Sure, I enjoyed writing all of Thor's bigger than life battles, but nothing could beat the fun of bringing this titanic trio into the mix!

However, these tales aren't all fun and games. Wait'll you see what happens to Thor's erstwhile ladylove, poor Jane Foster. But I couldn't let old Goldilocks be without a girlfriend for long, so you're about to meet the stunning Sif! And don't blame me for her name, compadre! It's right outta Norse mythology! Yessir, Jack and I really did our homework, and I'm still angry that you can't get extra credit for reading Thor comics!

By the way, if you're a fan of H.G. Wells (just like us) you're sure to get a kick out of our storyline involving The High Evolutionary and his New Men. It just may remind you of "The Island of Dr. Moreau" because, hey, we're not too proud to be influenced by the best!

Naturally, there's more, more, more I can tell you and if someone doesn't stop me I probably will. We haven't even mentioned Thor's little life-or-death problem with The People Breeders, or the Jinni Devil, or the Phantoms of Valhalla, or the maddening menace of the Super-Beast, or—no! This isn't fair to you! You're only human! Unlike Thor, there might be a limit to the wonderment you can handle!

Therefore, I'll give you a moment to catch your breath before you begin one of the greatest reading journeys of all. And, as omnipotent Odin himself might say—So be it!

EXCELSIOR!

2006

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
12¢
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
131
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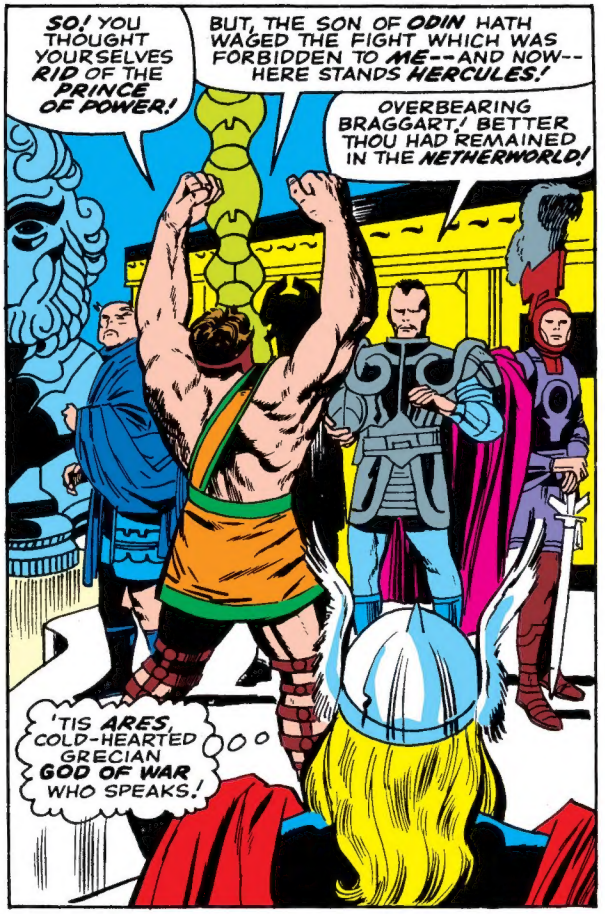
IND.
"THEY STRIKE FROM SPACE!"

# THE MIGHTY THOR!

## "THEY STRIKE FROM SPACE!"

REJOICE, YE MARVELITES! MIGHTY THOR HAS WON FREEDOM FOR HERCULES BY DEFEATING THE FORCES OF PLUTO IN DEADLY COMBAT! AND NOW, FLUSHED WITH TRIUMPH, THE TWO IMMORTALS APPEAR IN THE FABLED REALM OF ZEUS...
WE'VE DONE IT, THUNDER GOD! WE'VE PIERCED THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIER! I'VE RETURNED TO OLYMPUS --AT LAST!

SCRIPT..... *SMILIN'* **STAN LEE**
ART..... *JOLLY* **JACK KIRBY**
INKS..... *VIVACIOUS* **V. COLLETTA**
LETTERING... *AFFABLE* **ARTIE SIMEK**
CELESTIAL GUIDED TOURS.... *HONEST* **IRVING FORBUSH**

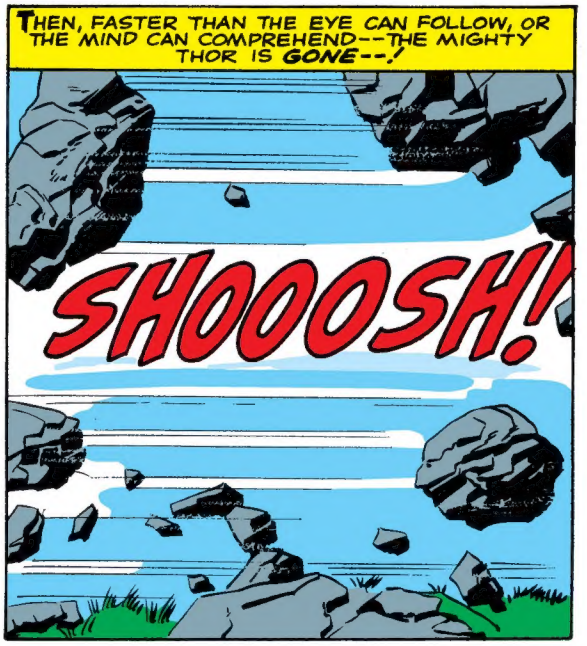

SO! YOU THOUGHT YOURSELVES RID OF THE PRINCE OF POWER!
BUT, THE SON OF ODIN HATH WAGED THE FIGHT WHICH WAS FORBIDDEN TO ME--AND NOW--HERE STANDS HERCULES!
OVERBEARING BRAGGART! BETTER THOU HAD REMAINED IN THE NETHERWORLD!
'TIS ARES, COLD-HEARTED GRECIAN GOD OF WAR WHO SPEAKS!

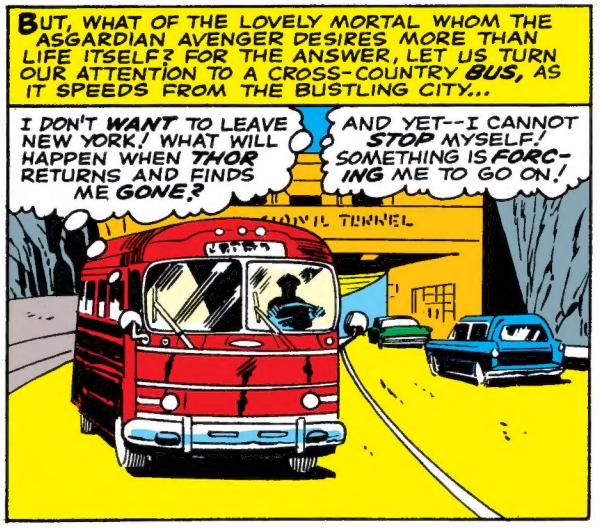
HAH! I STILL HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THE COWARD WHO WOULD NOT WIELD HIS SWORD IN HERCULES' BEHALF!
SO LONG AS ZEUS FAVORS THEE ABOVE ARES, THOU SHALT EVER BE MINE ENEMY!
AND THOSE WHO AID THEE, AS WELL!

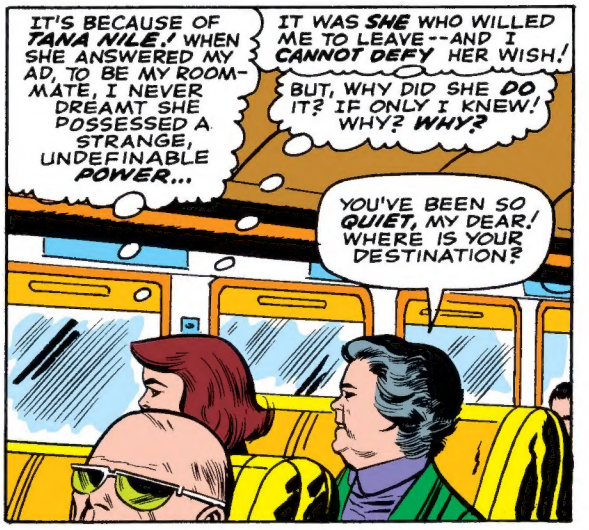
'TIS TIME FOR THOR TO TAKE HIS LEAVE!
THE THUNDER GOD HATH ENEMIES A'PLENTY!
MY TASK HERE IS DONE! NOW MUST I RETURN FORTHWITH TO THE COURT OF IMPERIAL ODIN!

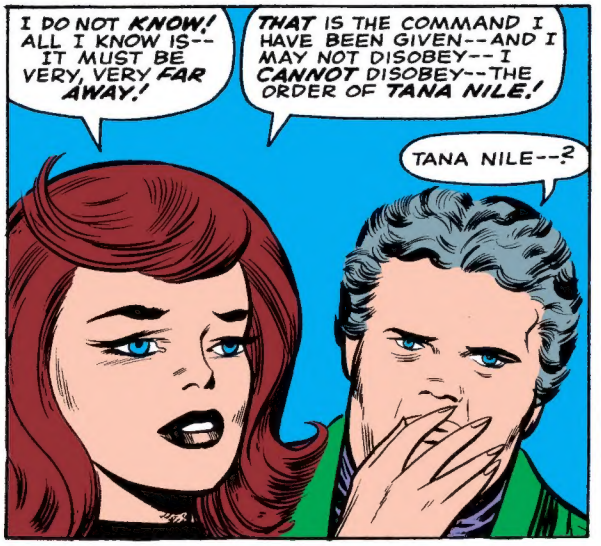
FOR THE FINAL TIME I SHALL REQUEST MY REGAL FATHER'S PERMISSION TO MARRY JANE FOSTER!
AND, IF I BE DENIED, I SHALL RENOUNCE MY HERITAGE! I'LL BE GOD OF THUNDER NO MORE!
2

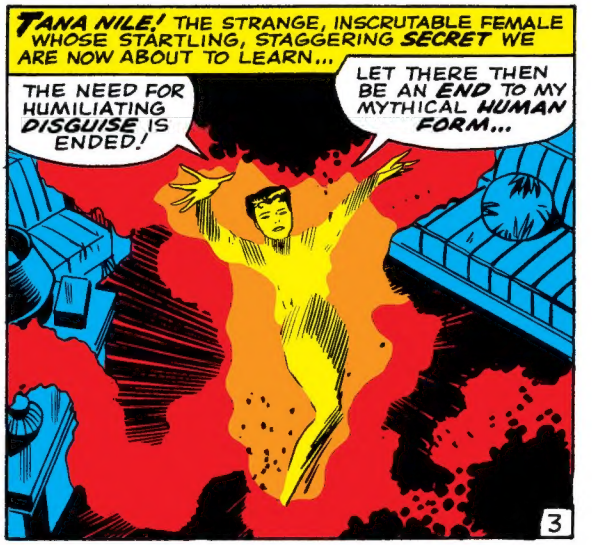
AT LAST! THE ENCHANTMENT BEGINS! THE WIND OF THE WORLDS DOTH ENGULF ME!
BLOW, YE POUNDING GALES! UNLEASH THE FURY OF THY AWESOME POWER! THE THUNDER GOD COMMANDS!

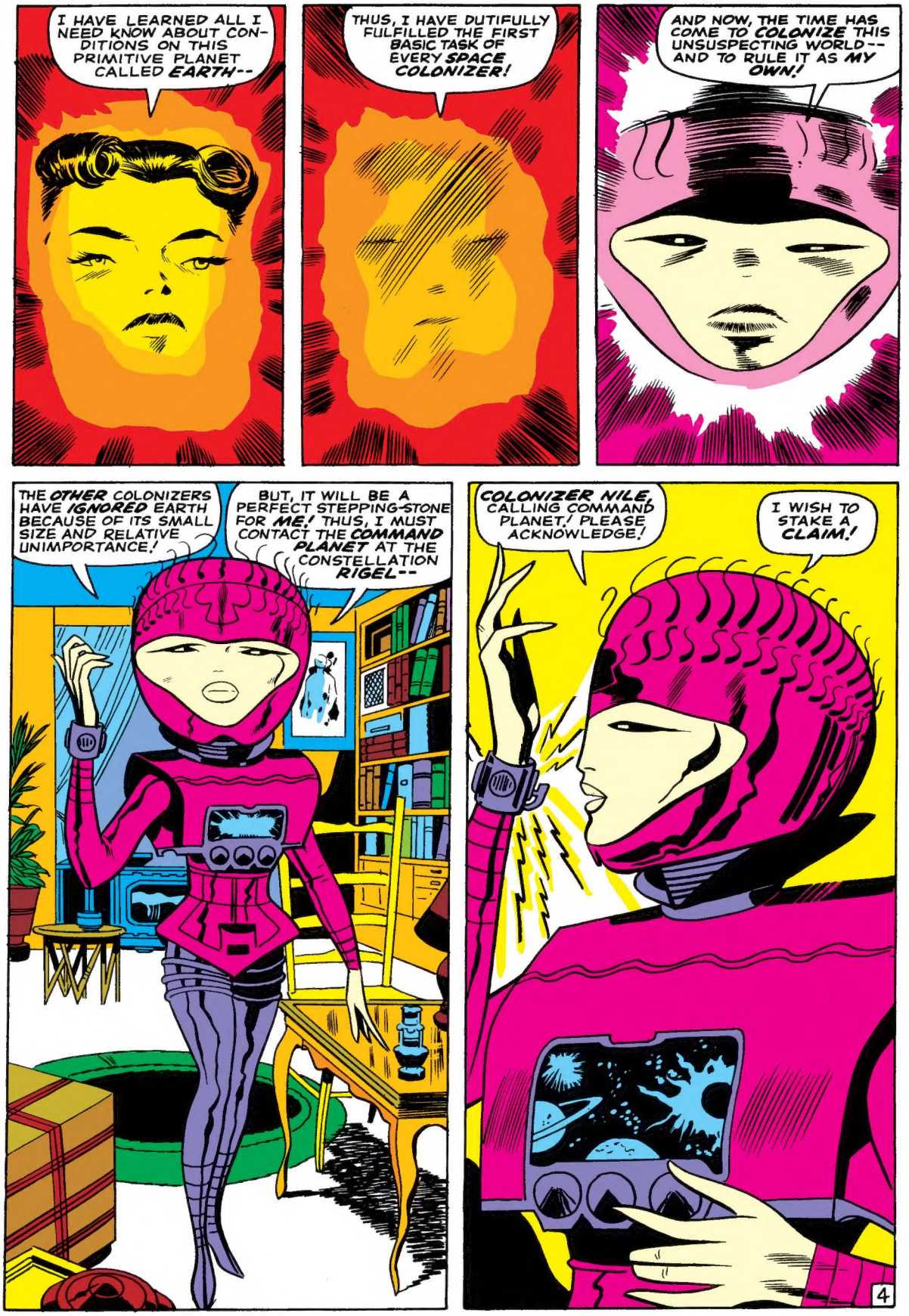

THEN, FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, OR THE MIND CAN COMPREHEND--THE MIGHTY THOR IS GONE--!
SHOOOSH!


BUT, WHAT OF THE LOVELY MORTAL WHOM THE ASGARDIAN AVENGER DESIRES MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF? FOR THE ANSWER, LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A CROSS-COUNTRY BUS, AS IT SPEEDS FROM THE BUSTLING CITY...
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE NEW YORK! WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THOR RETURNS AND FINDS ME GONE?
AND YET--I CANNOT STOP MYSELF! SOMETHING IS FORC-ING ME TO GO ON!

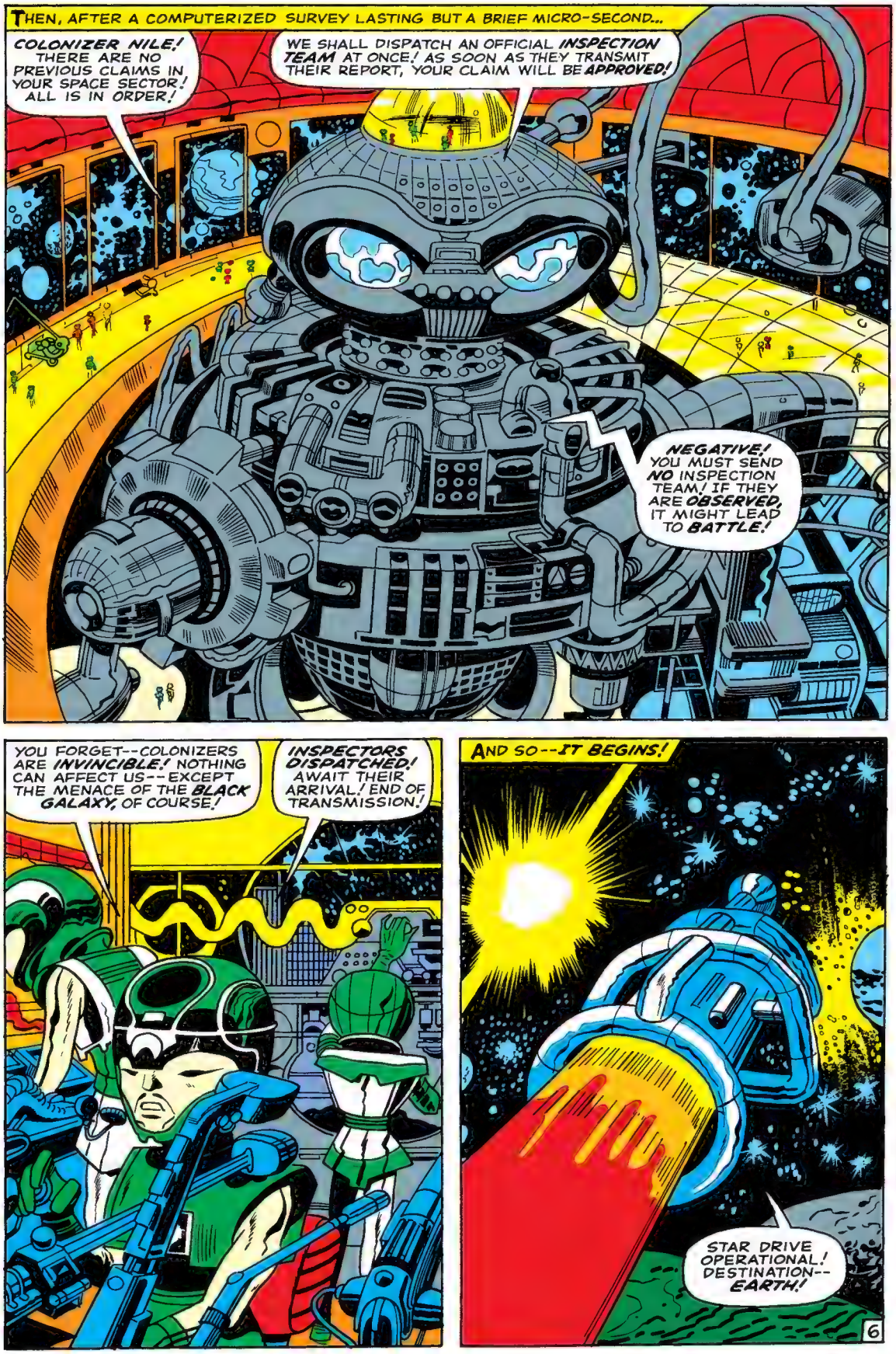

IT'S BECAUSE OF TANA NILE! WHEN SHE ANSWERED MY AD, TO BE MY ROOM-MATE, I NEVER DREAMT SHE POSSESSED A STRANGE, UNDEFINABLE POWER...
IT WAS SHE WHO WILLED ME TO LEAVE--AND I CANNOT DEFY HER WISH!
BUT, WHY DID SHE DO IT? IF ONLY I KNEW! WHY? WHY?
YOU'VE BEEN SO QUIET, MY DEAR! WHERE IS YOUR DESTINATION?

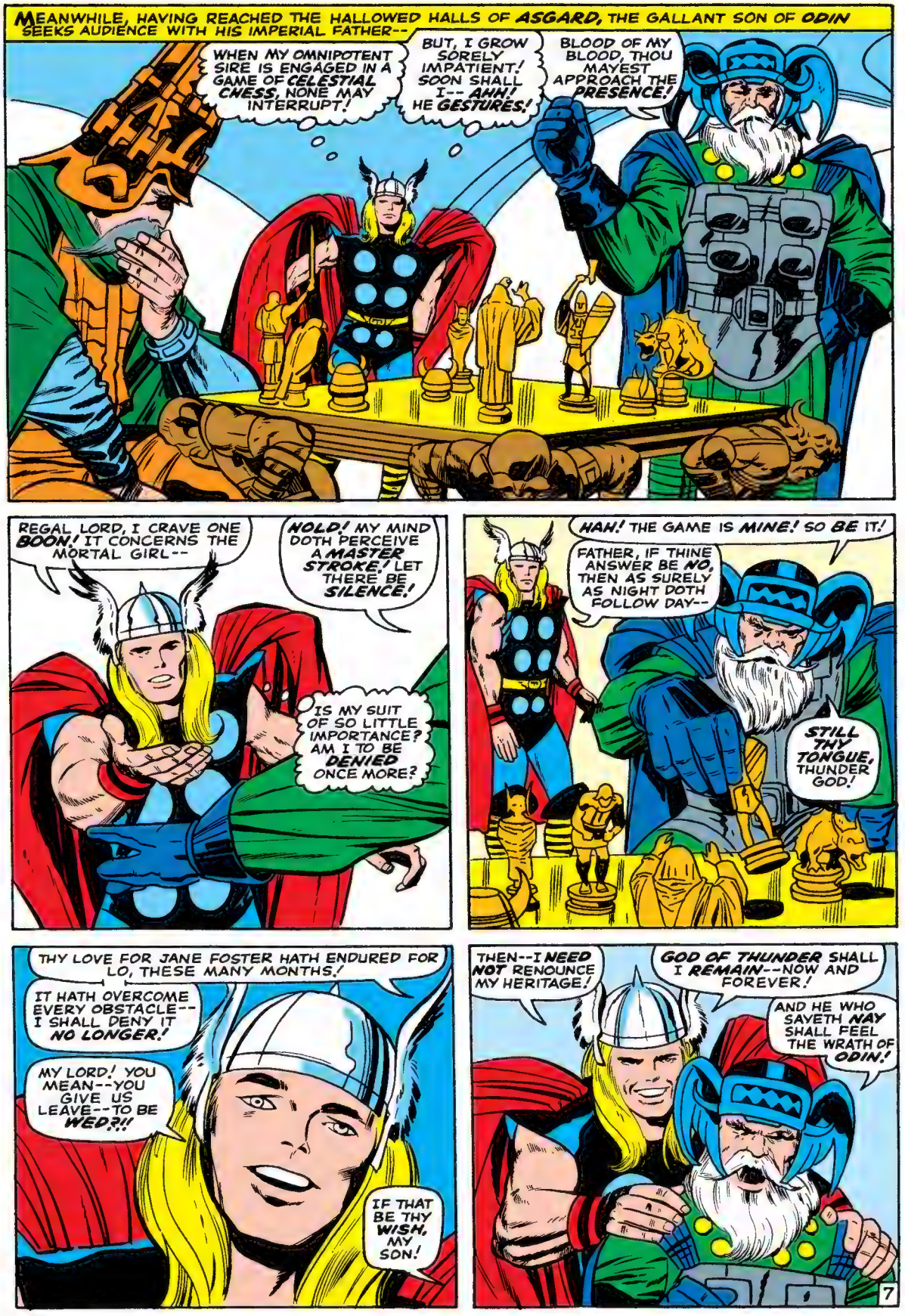

I DO NOT KNOW! ALL I KNOW IS--IT MUST BE VERY, VERY FAR AWAY!
THAT IS THE COMMAND I HAVE BEEN GIVEN--AND I MAY NOT DISOBEY--I CANNOT DISOBEY--THE ORDER OF TANA NILE!
TANA NILE--?

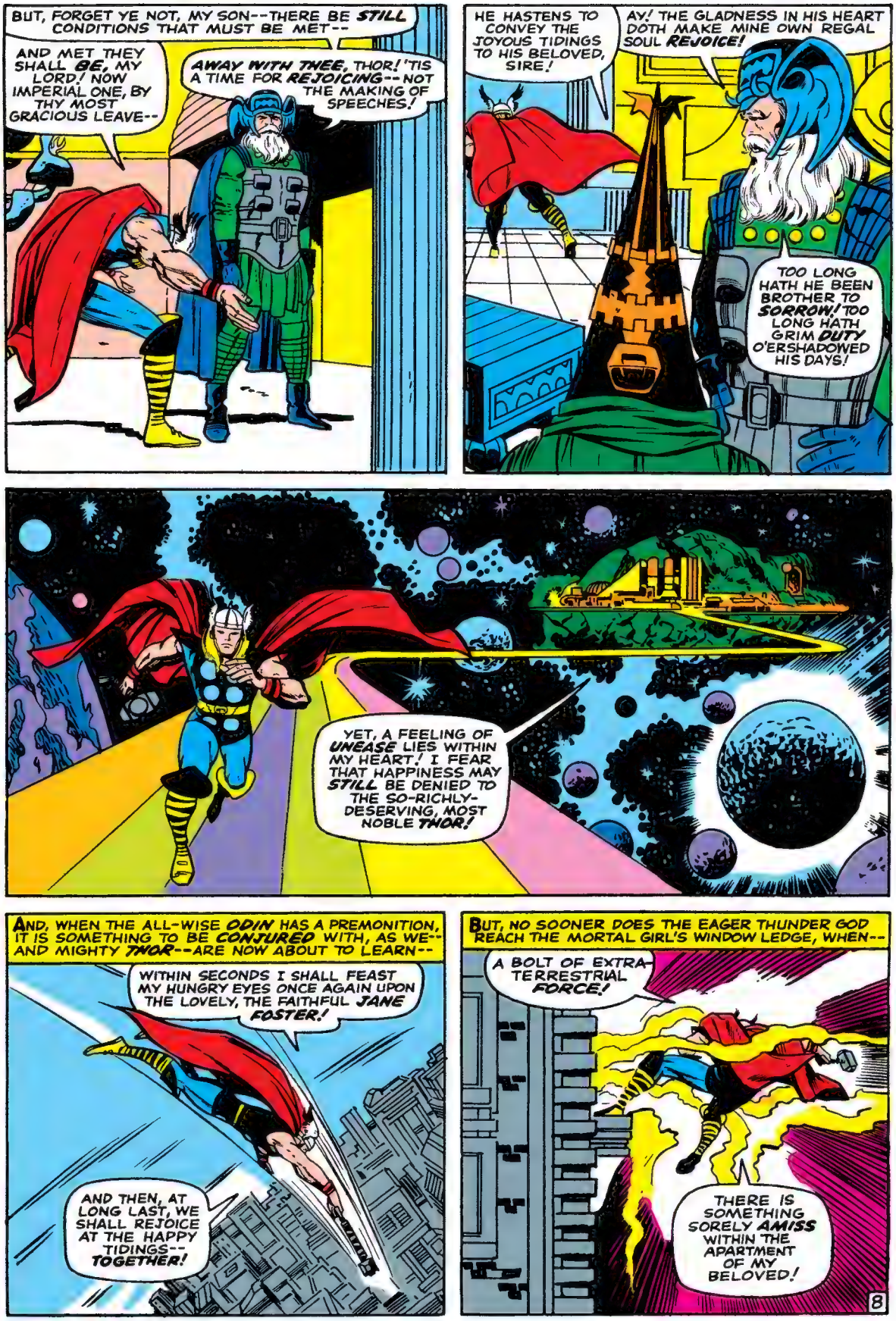

TANA NILE! THE STRANGE, INSCRUTABLE FEMALE WHOSE STARTLING, STAGGERING SECRET WE ARE NOW ABOUT TO LEARN...
THE NEED FOR HUMILIATING DISGUISE IS ENDED!
LET THERE THEN BE AN END TO MY MYTHICAL HUMAN FORM...

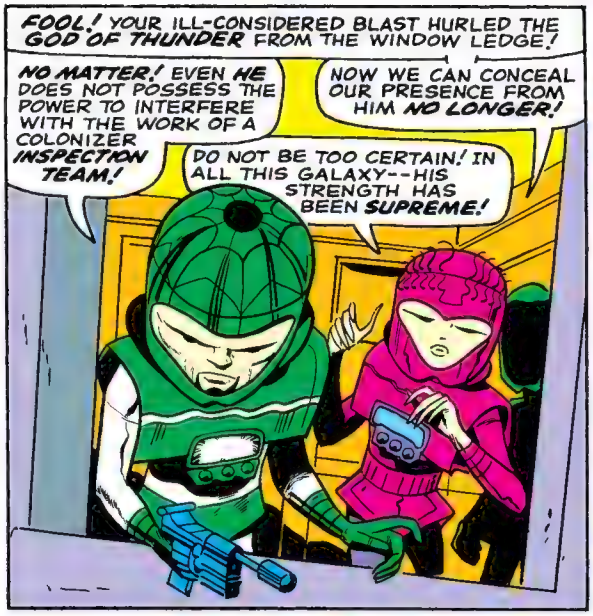

I HAVE LEARNED ALL I NEED KNOW ABOUT CONDITIONS ON THIS PRIMITIVE PLANET CALLED EARTH--
THUS, I HAVE DUTIFULLY FULFILLED THE FIRST BASIC TASK OF EVERY SPACE COLONIZER!
AND NOW, THE TIME HAS COME TO COLONIZE THIS UNSUSPECTING WORLD-- AND TO RULE IT AS MY OWN!
THE OTHER COLONIZERS HAVE IGNORED EARTH BECAUSE OF ITS SMALL SIZE AND RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE!
BUT, IT WILL BE A PERFECT STEPPING-STONE FOR ME! THUS, I MUST CONTACT THE COMMAND PLANET AT THE CONSTELLATION RIGEL--
COLONIZER NILE, CALLING COMMAND PLANET! PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE!
I WISH TO STAKE A CLAIM!
4

AT THAT MOMENT, ON A PLANET SO LARGE, IN A GALAXY SO DISTANT THAT IT BEGGARS OUR POOR, MORTAL POWER OF DESCRIPTION, AN INTERCOSMIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IS AUTOMATICALLY ACTIVATED...
MESSAGE RECEIVED! MESSAGE RECEIVED! THIS IS DIVISION OF CLAIMS!
GIVE YOUR EXACT LOCATION AND ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION!
I AM ON THE PERIMETER OF SECTOR FIVE--THE LITTLE KNOWN SYSTEM CALLED SOL!
MY PLANET, THE THIRD FROM THE SUN, IS UNREGISTERED! THUS, I CLAIM FULL COLONIZATION RIGHTS!
WE MUST CHECK OUR FILE OF FRINGE AREA GALAXIES! MAINTAIN CONTACT!
5


THEN, AFTER A COMPUTERIZED SURVEY LASTING BUT A BRIEF MICRO-SECOND...
COLONIZER NILE! THERE ARE NO PREVIOUS CLAIMS IN YOUR SPACE SECTOR! ALL IS IN ORDER!
WE SHALL DISPATCH AN OFFICIAL INSPECTION TEAM AT ONCE! AS SOON AS THEY TRANSMIT THEIR REPORT, YOUR CLAIM WILL BE APPROVED!
NEGATIVE! YOU MUST SEND NO INSPECTION TEAM! IF THEY ARE OBSERVED, IT MIGHT LEAD TO BATTLE!
YOU FORGET--COLONIZERS ARE INVINCIBLE! NOTHING CAN AFFECT US--EXCEPT THE MENACE OF THE BLACK GALAXY, OF COURSE!
INSPECTORS DISPATCHED! AWAIT THEIR ARRIVAL! END OF TRANSMISSION!
AND SO--IT BEGINS!
STAR DRIVE OPERATIONAL! DESTINATION--EARTH!
6


MEANWHILE, HAVING REACHED THE HALLOWED HALLS OF ASGARD, THE GALLANT SON OF ODIN SEEKS AUDIENCE WITH HIS IMPERIAL FATHER--
WHEN MY OMNIPOTENT SIRE IS ENGAGED IN A GAME OF CELESTIAL CHESS, NONE MAY INTERRUPT!
BUT, I GROW SORELY IMPATIENT! SOON SHALL I-- AHH! HE GESTURES!
BLOOD OF MY BLOOD, THOU MAYEST APPROACH THE PRESENCE!
REGAL LORD, I CRAVE ONE BOON! IT CONCERNS THE MORTAL GIRL--
HOLD! MY MIND DOTH PERCEIVE A MASTER STROKE! LET THERE BE SILENCE!
IS MY SUIT OF SO LITTLE IMPORTANCE? AM I TO BE DENIED ONCE MORE?
HAH! THE GAME IS MINE! SO BE IT!
FATHER, IF THINE ANSWER BE NO, THEN AS SURELY AS NIGHT DOTH FOLLOW DAY--
STILL THY TONGUE, THUNDER GOD!
THY LOVE FOR JANE FOSTER HATH ENDURED FOR LO, THESE MANY MONTHS!
IT HATH OVERCOME EVERY OBSTACLE-- I SHALL DENY IT NO LONGER!
MY LORD! YOU MEAN--YOU GIVE US LEAVE--TO BE WED?!!
IF THAT BE THY WISH, MY SON!
THEN--I NEED NOT RENOUNCE MY HERITAGE!
GOD OF THUNDER SHALL I REMAIN--NOW AND FOREVER!
AND HE WHO SAYETH NAY SHALL FEEL THE WRATH OF ODIN!

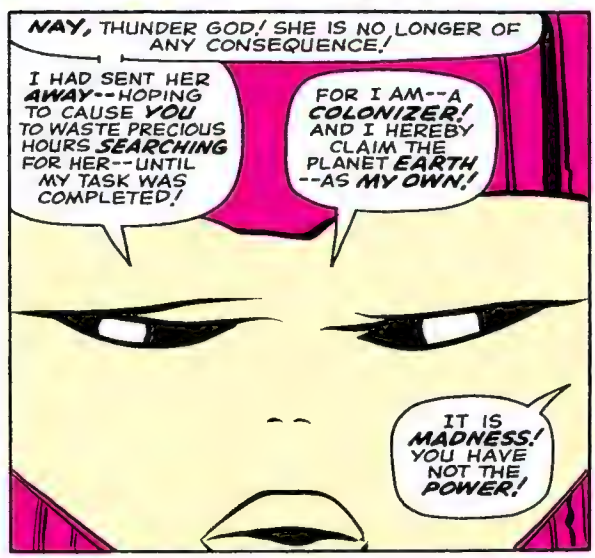

BUT, FORGET YE NOT, MY SON--THERE BE STILL CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE MET--
AND MET THEY SHALL BE, MY LORD! NOW IMPERIAL ONE, BY THY MOST GRACIOUS LEAVE--
AWAY WITH THEE, THOR! 'TIS A TIME FOR REJOICING--NOT THE MAKING OF SPEECHES!
HE HASTENS TO CONVEY THE JOYOUS TIDINGS TO HIS BELOVED, SIRE!
AY! THE GLADNESS IN HIS HEART DOTH MAKE MINE OWN REGAL SOUL REJOICE!
TOO LONG HATH HE BEEN BROTHER TO SORROW! TOO LONG HATH GRIM DUTY O'ERSHADOWED HIS DAYS!
YET, A FEELING OF UNEASE LIES WITHIN MY HEART! I FEAR THAT HAPPINESS MAY STILL BE DENIED TO THE SO-RICHLY-DESERVING, MOST NOBLE THOR!
AND, WHEN THE ALL-WISE ODIN HAS A PREMONITION, IT IS SOMETHING TO BE CONJURED WITH, AS WE--AND MIGHTY THOR--ARE NOW ABOUT TO LEARN--
WITHIN SECONDS I SHALL FEAST MY HUNGRY EYES ONCE AGAIN UPON THE LOVELY, THE FAITHFUL JANE FOSTER!
AND THEN, AT LONG LAST, WE SHALL REJOICE AT THE HAPPY TIDINGS--TOGETHER!
BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE EAGER THUNDER GOD REACH THE MORTAL GIRL'S WINDOW LEDGE, WHEN--
A BOLT OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL FORCE!
THERE IS SOMETHING SORELY AMISS WITHIN THE APARTMENT OF MY BELOVED!
8

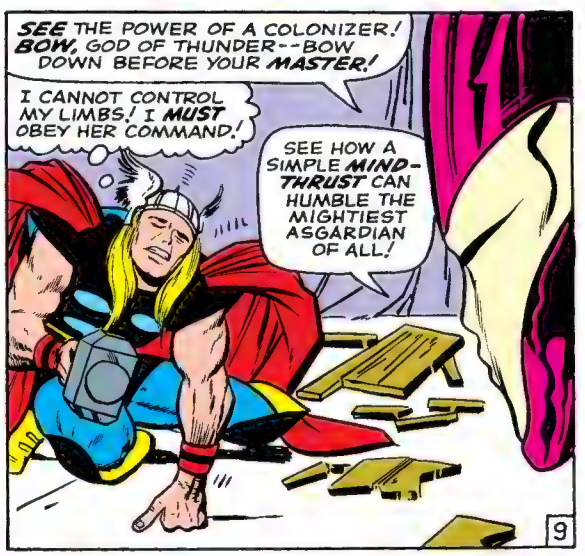

FOOL! YOUR ILL-CONSIDERED BLAST HURLED THE GOD OF THUNDER FROM THE WINDOW LEDGE!
NO MATTER! EVEN HE DOES NOT POSSESS THE POWER TO INTERFERE WITH THE WORK OF A COLONIZER INSPECTION TEAM!
NOW WE CAN CONCEAL OUR PRESENCE FROM HIM NO LONGER!
DO NOT BE TOO CERTAIN! IN ALL THIS GALAXY--HIS STRENGTH HAS BEEN SUPREME!

CRRASH!
GET YOU BACK! THE WALL CRUMBLES BEFORE US!

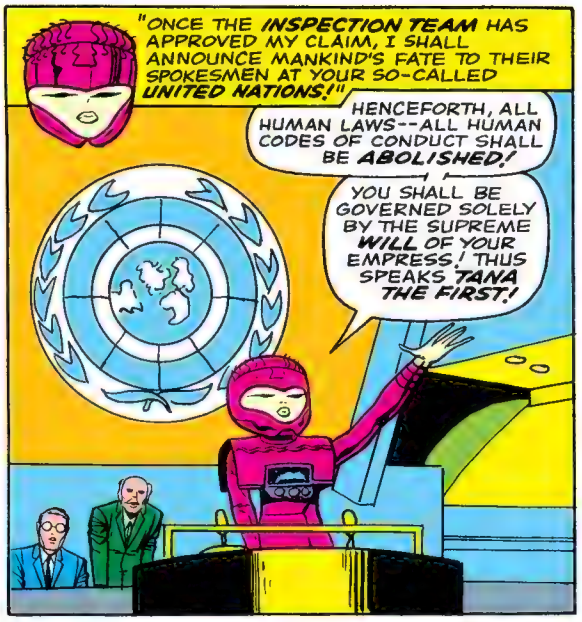
I AM THOR! EXPLAIN THY PRESENCE HERE! BRING THE GIRL, JANE FOSTER, SAFELY FORTH!
ELSE, SHALL YOU TASTE VENGEANCE --MOST TERRIBLE-- MOST EVER-LASTING!

YOU KNOW NOT TO WHOM YOU SPEAK, GOD OF THUNDER!
YOU KNEW ME ONCE, IN DIFFERENT GUISE! YOU KNEW ME AS-- TANA NILE!
THE GIRL WITH WHOM JANE FOSTER ROOMED! I SENSED THOU WERT NOT WHAT THOU SEEMED TO BE!
BUT, NO MATTER! THE GIRL! BRING FORTH THE GIRL!

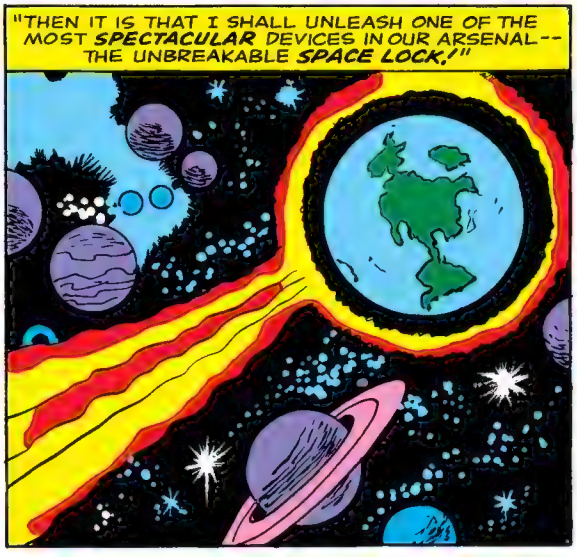

NAY, THUNDER GOD! SHE IS NO LONGER OF ANY CONSEQUENCE!
I HAD SENT HER AWAY--HOPING TO CAUSE YOU TO WASTE PRECIOUS HOURS SEARCHING FOR HER--UNTIL MY TASK WAS COMPLETED!
FOR I AM--A COLONIZER! AND I HEREBY CLAIM THE PLANET EARTH --AS MY OWN!
IT IS MADNESS! YOU HAVE NOT THE POWER!

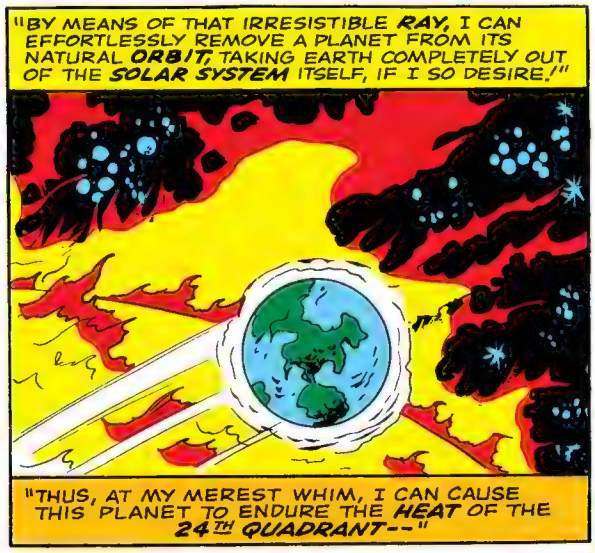

SEE THE POWER OF A COLONIZER! BOW, GOD OF THUNDER--BOW DOWN BEFORE YOUR MASTER!
I CANNOT CONTROL MY LIMBS! I MUST OBEY HER COMMAND!
SEE HOW A SIMPLE MIND-THRUST CAN HUMBLE THE MIGHTIEST ASGARDIAN OF ALL!

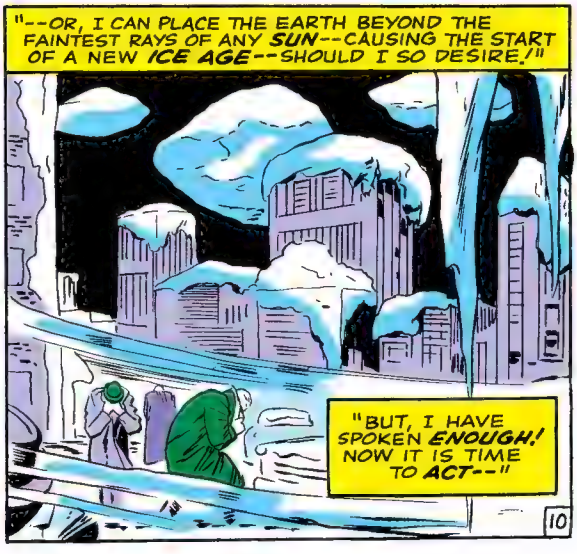
NO LONGER SHALL YOU KNOW ME MERELY AS TANA NILE!
WHEN NEXT YOU ADDRESS ME, IT SHALL BE AS TANA THE FIRST, COLONIAL EMPRESS OF THE CAPTIVE PLANET EARTH!

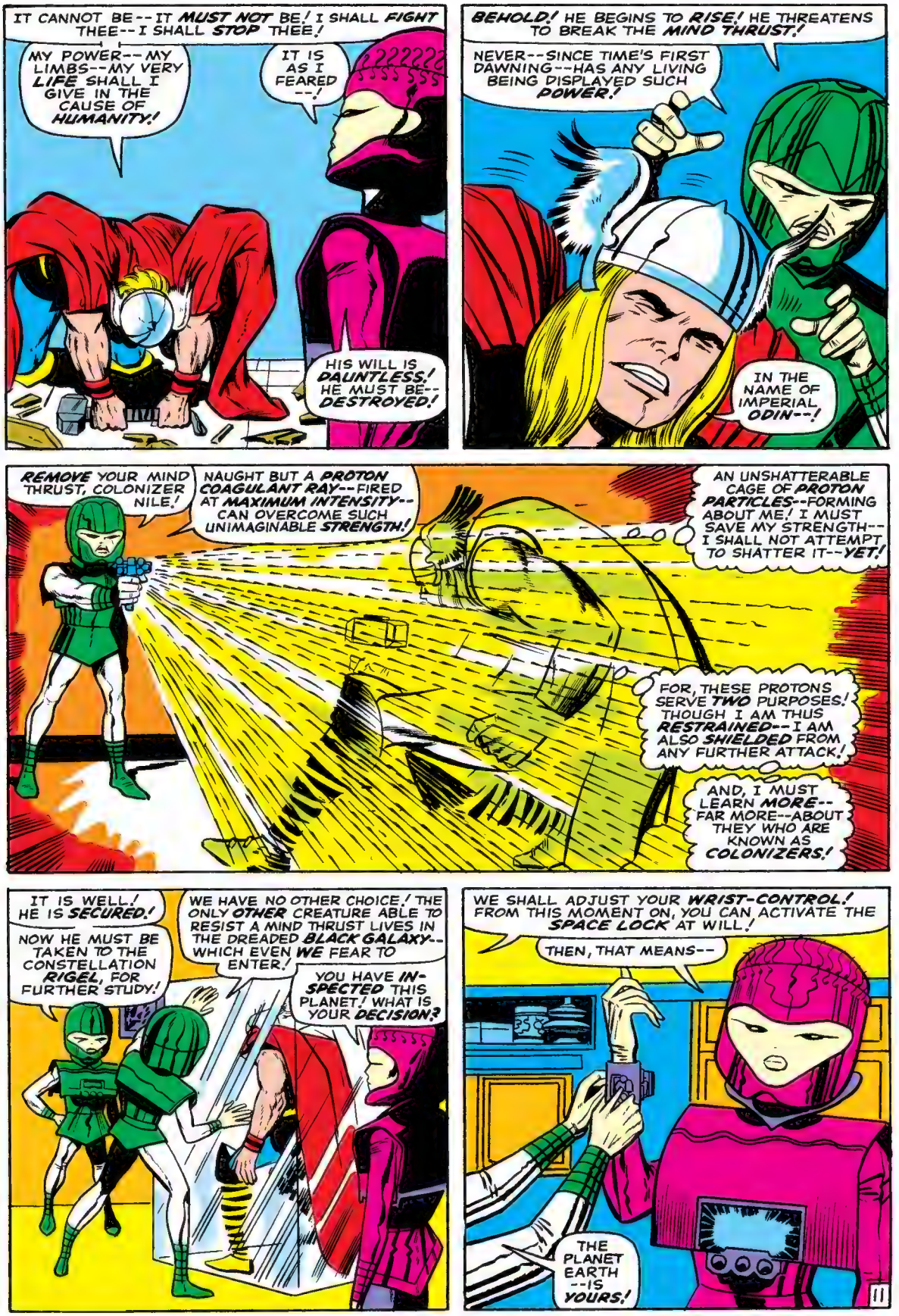

"ONCE THE INSPECTION TEAM HAS APPROVED MY CLAIM, I SHALL ANNOUNCE MANKIND'S FATE TO THEIR SPOKESMEN AT YOUR SO-CALLED UNITED NATIONS!"
HENCEFORTH, ALL HUMAN LAWS--ALL HUMAN CODES OF CONDUCT SHALL BE ABOLISHED!
YOU SHALL BE GOVERNED SOLELY BY THE SUPREME WILL OF YOUR EMPRESS! THUS SPEAKS TANA THE FIRST!

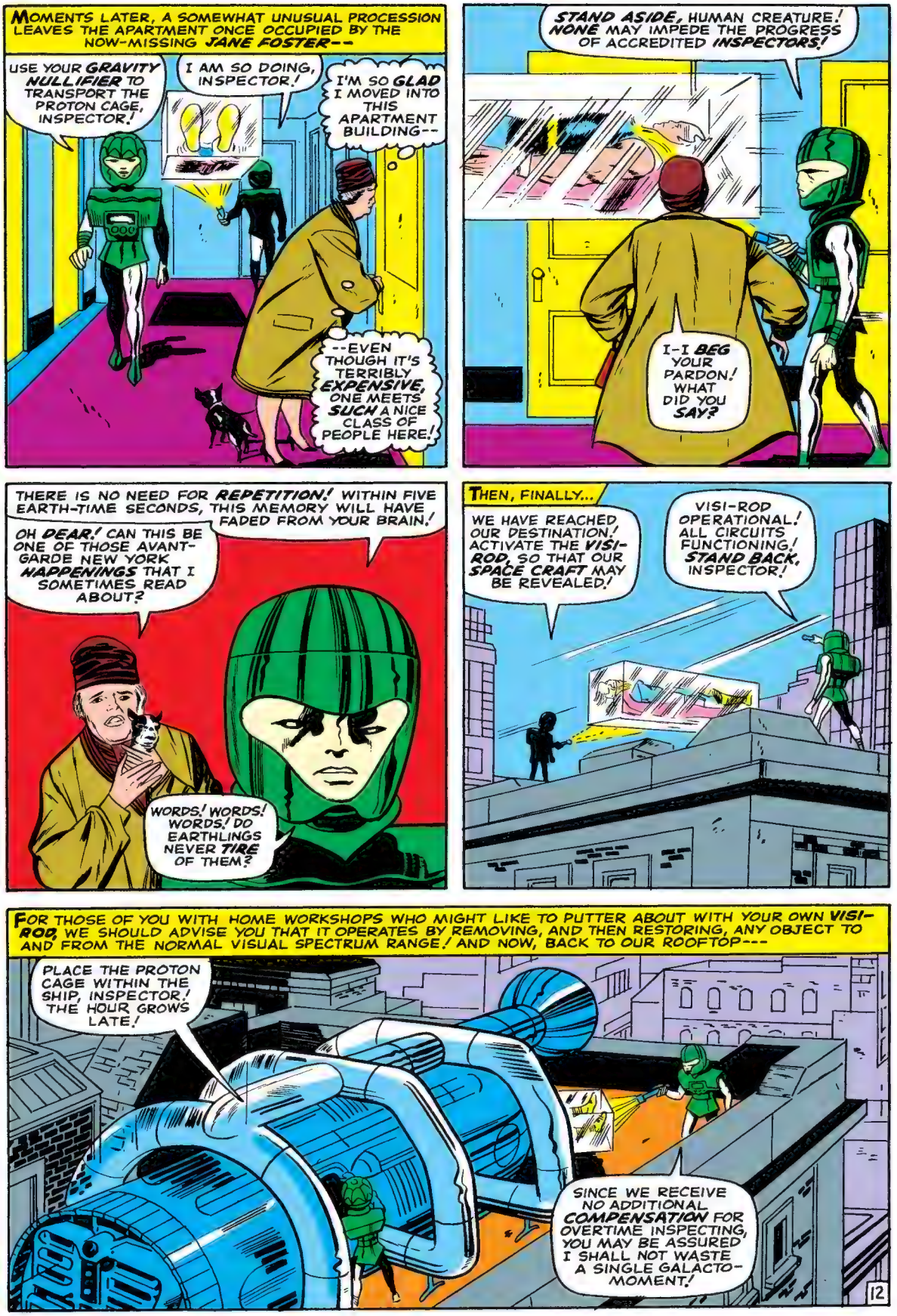
"NATURALLY, IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE A MEASURE OF RESISTANCE FROM SOME WHO DO NOT FULLY COMPREHEND THE POWER OF A COLONIZER! FOR SUCH AS THEY, I POSSESS A CERTAIN REMEDY--"
THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT BELIEVE SHALL SOON WITNESS THE AWESOME EVIDENCE OF MY COMPLETE SUPREMACY!

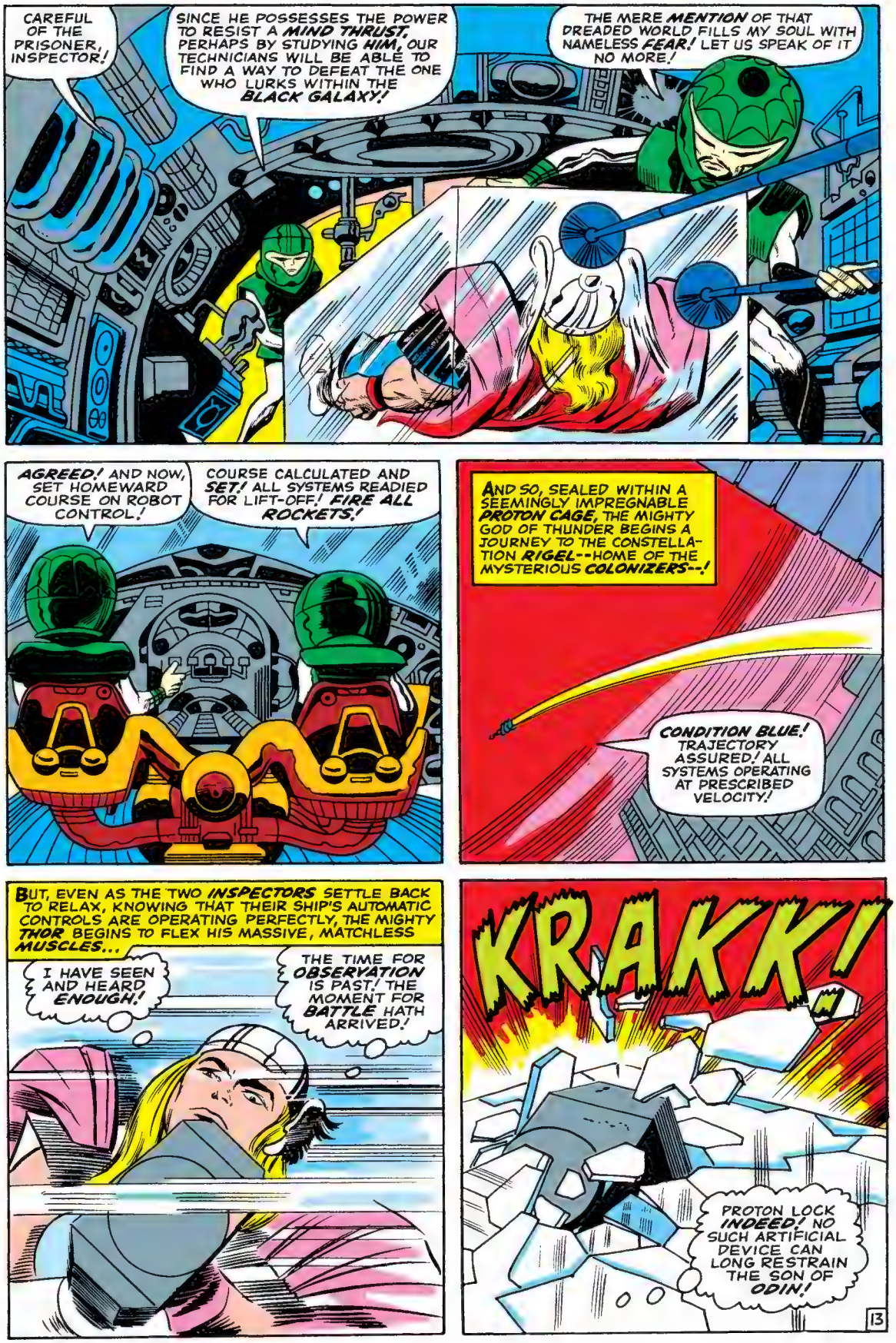

"THEN IT IS THAT I SHALL UNLEASH ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR DEVICES IN OUR ARSENAL--THE UNBREAKABLE SPACE LOCK!"

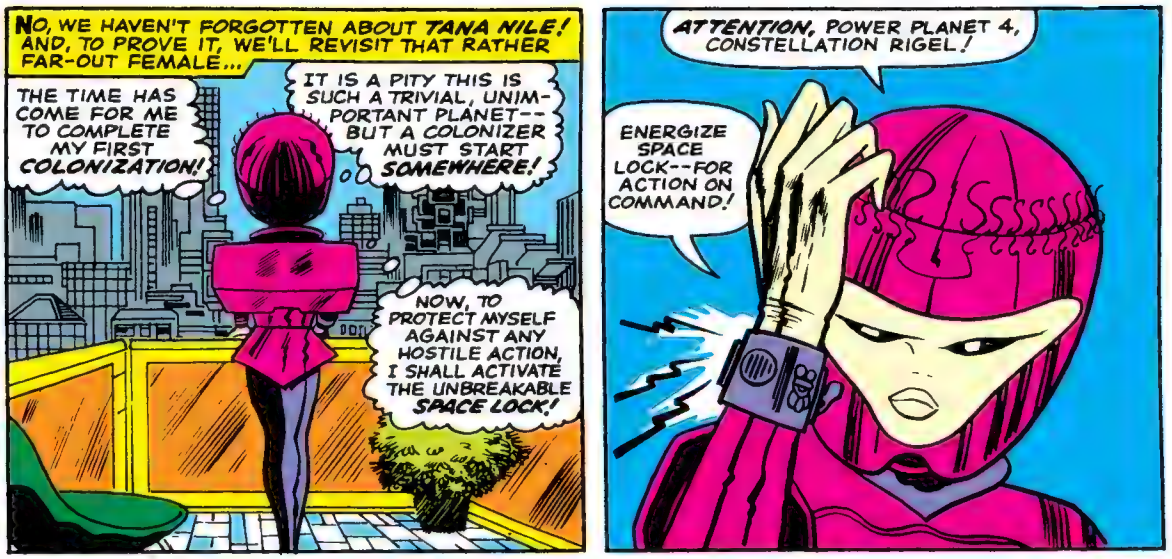

"BY MEANS OF THAT IRRESISTIBLE RAY, I CAN EFFORTLESSLY REMOVE A PLANET FROM ITS NATURAL ORBIT, TAKING EARTH COMPLETELY OUT OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM ITSELF, IF I SO DESIRE!"
"THUS, AT MY MEREST WHIM, I CAN CAUSE THIS PLANET TO ENDURE THE HEAT OF THE 24TH QUADRANT--"


"--OR, I CAN PLACE THE EARTH BEYOND THE FAINTEST RAYS OF ANY SUN--CAUSING THE START OF A NEW ICE AGE--SHOULD I SO DESIRE!"
"BUT, I HAVE SPOKEN ENOUGH! NOW IT IS TIME TO ACT--"

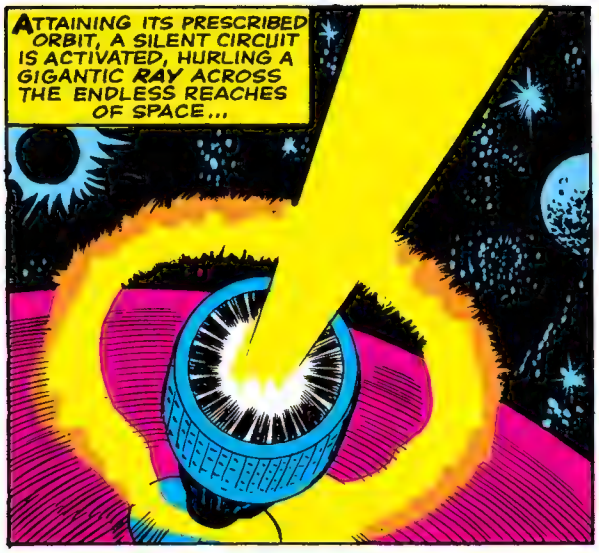

IT CANNOT BE--IT MUST NOT BE! I SHALL FIGHT THEE--I SHALL STOP THEE!
MY POWER--MY LIMBS--MY VERY LIFE SHALL I GIVE IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY!
IT IS AS I FEARED --!
HIS WILL IS DAUNTLESS! HE MUST BE-- DESTROYED!
BEHOLD! HE BEGINS TO RISE! HE THREATENS TO BREAK THE MIND THRUST!
NEVER--SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWNING--HAS ANY LIVING BEING DISPLAYED SUCH POWER!
IN THE NAME OF IMPERIAL ODIN--!
REMOVE YOUR MIND THRUST, COLONIZER NILE!
NAUGHT BUT A PROTON COAGULANT RAY--FIRED AT MAXIMUM INTENSITY--CAN OVERCOME SUCH UNIMAGINABLE STRENGTH!
AN UNSHATTERABLE CAGE OF PROTON PARTICLES--FORMING ABOUT ME! I MUST SAVE MY STRENGTH--I SHALL NOT ATTEMPT TO SHATTER IT--YET!
FOR, THESE PROTONS SERVE TWO PURPOSES! THOUGH I AM THUS RESTRAINED--I AM ALSO SHIELDED FROM ANY FURTHER ATTACK!
AND, I MUST LEARN MORE--FAR MORE--ABOUT THEY WHO ARE KNOWN AS COLONIZERS!
IT IS WELL! HE IS SECURED!
NOW HE MUST BE TAKEN TO THE CONSTELLATION RIGEL, FOR FURTHER STUDY!
WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE! THE ONLY OTHER CREATURE ABLE TO RESIST A MIND THRUST LIVES IN THE DREADED BLACK GALAXY--WHICH EVEN WE FEAR TO ENTER!
YOU HAVE INSPECTED THIS PLANET! WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?
WE SHALL ADJUST YOUR WRIST-CONTROL! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, YOU CAN ACTIVATE THE SPACE LOCK AT WILL!
THEN, THAT MEANS--
THE PLANET EARTH --IS YOURS!
11

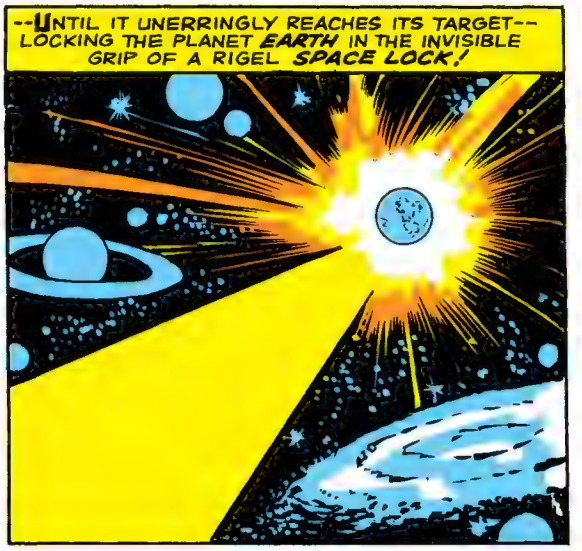

MOMENTS LATER, A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL PROCESSION LEAVES THE APARTMENT ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE NOW-MISSING JANE FOSTER--
USE YOUR GRAVITY NULLIFIER TO TRANSPORT THE PROTON CAGE, INSPECTOR!
I AM SO DOING, INSPECTOR!
I'M SO GLAD I MOVED INTO THIS APARTMENT BUILDING--
--EVEN THOUGH IT'S TERRIBLY EXPENSIVE, ONE MEETS SUCH A NICE CLASS OF PEOPLE HERE!
STAND ASIDE, HUMAN CREATURE! NONE MAY IMPEDE THE PROGRESS OF ACCREDITED INSPECTORS!
I-I BEG YOUR PARDON! WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THERE IS NO NEED FOR REPETITION! WITHIN FIVE EARTH-TIME SECONDS, THIS MEMORY WILL HAVE FADED FROM YOUR BRAIN!
OH DEAR! CAN THIS BE ONE OF THOSE AVANT-GARDE NEW YORK HAPPENINGS THAT I SOMETIMES READ ABOUT?
WORDS! WORDS! WORDS! DO EARTHLINGS NEVER TIRE OF THEM?
THEN, FINALLY...
WE HAVE REACHED OUR DESTINATION! ACTIVATE THE VISI-ROD, SO THAT OUR SPACE CRAFT MAY BE REVEALED!
VISI-ROD OPERATIONAL! ALL CIRCUITS FUNCTIONING! STAND BACK, INSPECTOR!
FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH HOME WORKSHOPS WHO MIGHT LIKE TO PUTTER ABOUT WITH YOUR OWN VISI-ROD, WE SHOULD ADVISE YOU THAT IT OPERATES BY REMOVING, AND THEN RESTORING, ANY OBJECT TO AND FROM THE NORMAL VISUAL SPECTRUM RANGE! AND NOW, BACK TO OUR ROOFTOP---
PLACE THE PROTON CAGE WITHIN THE SHIP, INSPECTOR! THE HOUR GROWS LATE!
SINCE WE RECEIVE NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR OVERTIME INSPECTING, YOU MAY BE ASSURED I SHALL NOT WASTE A SINGLE GALACTO-MOMENT!
12

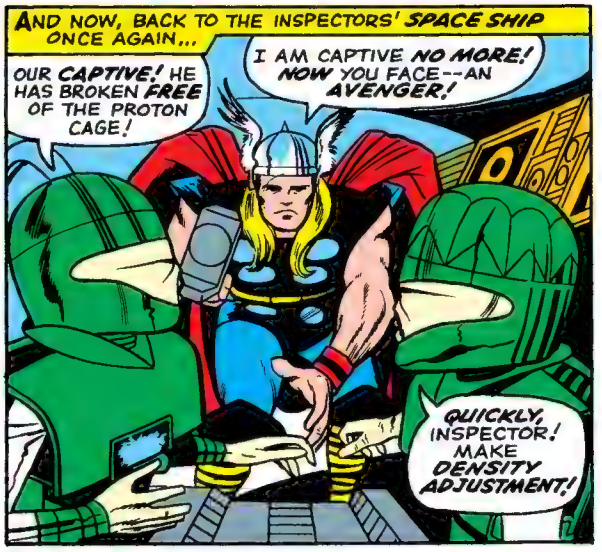

CAREFUL OF THE PRISONER, INSPECTOR!
SINCE HE POSSESSES THE POWER TO RESIST A MIND THRUST, PERHAPS BY STUDYING HIM, OUR TECHNICIANS WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT THE ONE WHO LURKS WITHIN THE BLACK GALAXY!
THE MERE MENTION OF THAT DREADED WORLD FILLS MY SOUL WITH NAMELESS FEAR! LET US SPEAK OF IT NO MORE!
AGREED! AND NOW, SET HOMEWARD COURSE ON ROBOT CONTROL!
COURSE CALCULATED AND SET! ALL SYSTEMS READIED FOR LIFT-OFF! FIRE ALL ROCKETS!
AND SO, SEALED WITHIN A SEEMINGLY IMPREGNABLE PROTON CAGE, THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER BEGINS A JOURNEY TO THE CONSTELLATION RIGEL--HOME OF THE MYSTERIOUS COLONIZERS--!
CONDITION BLUE! TRAJECTORY ASSURED! ALL SYSTEMS OPERATING AT PRESCRIBED VELOCITY!
BUT, EVEN AS THE TWO INSPECTORS SETTLE BACK TO RELAX, KNOWING THAT THEIR SHIP'S AUTOMATIC CONTROLS ARE OPERATING PERFECTLY, THE MIGHTY THOR BEGINS TO FLEX HIS MASSIVE, MATCHLESS MUSCLES...
I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD ENOUGH!
THE TIME FOR OBSERVATION IS PAST! THE MOMENT FOR BATTLE HATH ARRIVED!
KRAKK!
PROTON LOCK INDEED! NO SUCH ARTIFICIAL DEVICE CAN LONG RESTRAIN THE SON OF ODIN!
13

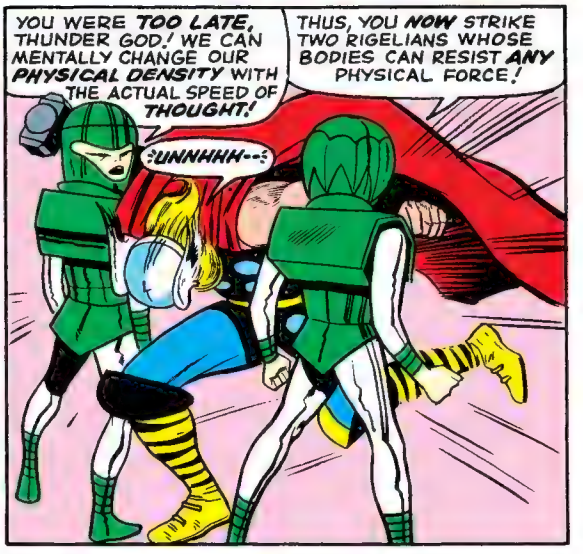

NO, WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT TANA NILE! AND, TO PROVE IT, WE'LL REVISIT THAT RATHER FAR-OUT FEMALE...
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO COMPLETE MY FIRST COLONIZATION!
IT IS A PITY THIS IS SUCH A TRIVIAL, UNIMPORTANT PLANET--BUT A COLONIZER MUST START SOMEWHERE!
NOW, TO PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST ANY HOSTILE ACTION, I SHALL ACTIVATE THE UNBREAKABLE SPACE LOCK!
ATTENTION, POWER PLANET 4, CONSTELLATION RIGEL!
ENERGIZE SPACE LOCK--FOR ACTION ON COMMAND!
SSSSSSS

AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS AWAY, A MAMMOTH CELESTIAL SPACE LOCK SOARS INTO ATTACK POSITION, ON BLINDING, BLAZING BLASTS OF ASTRAL ENERGY! AND THEN...


ATTAINING ITS PRESCRIBED ORBIT, A SILENT CIRCUIT IS ACTIVATED, HURLING A GIGANTIC RAY ACROSS THE ENDLESS REACHES OF SPACE...


--UNTIL IT UNERRINGLY REACHES ITS TARGET-- LOCKING THE PLANET EARTH IN THE INVISIBLE GRIP OF A RIGEL SPACE LOCK!


AND NOW, BACK TO THE INSPECTORS' SPACE SHIP ONCE AGAIN...
OUR CAPTIVE! HE HAS BROKEN FREE OF THE PROTON CAGE!
I AM CAPTIVE NO MORE! NOW YOU FACE--AN AVENGER!
QUICKLY, INSPECTOR! MAKE DENSITY ADJUSTMENT!

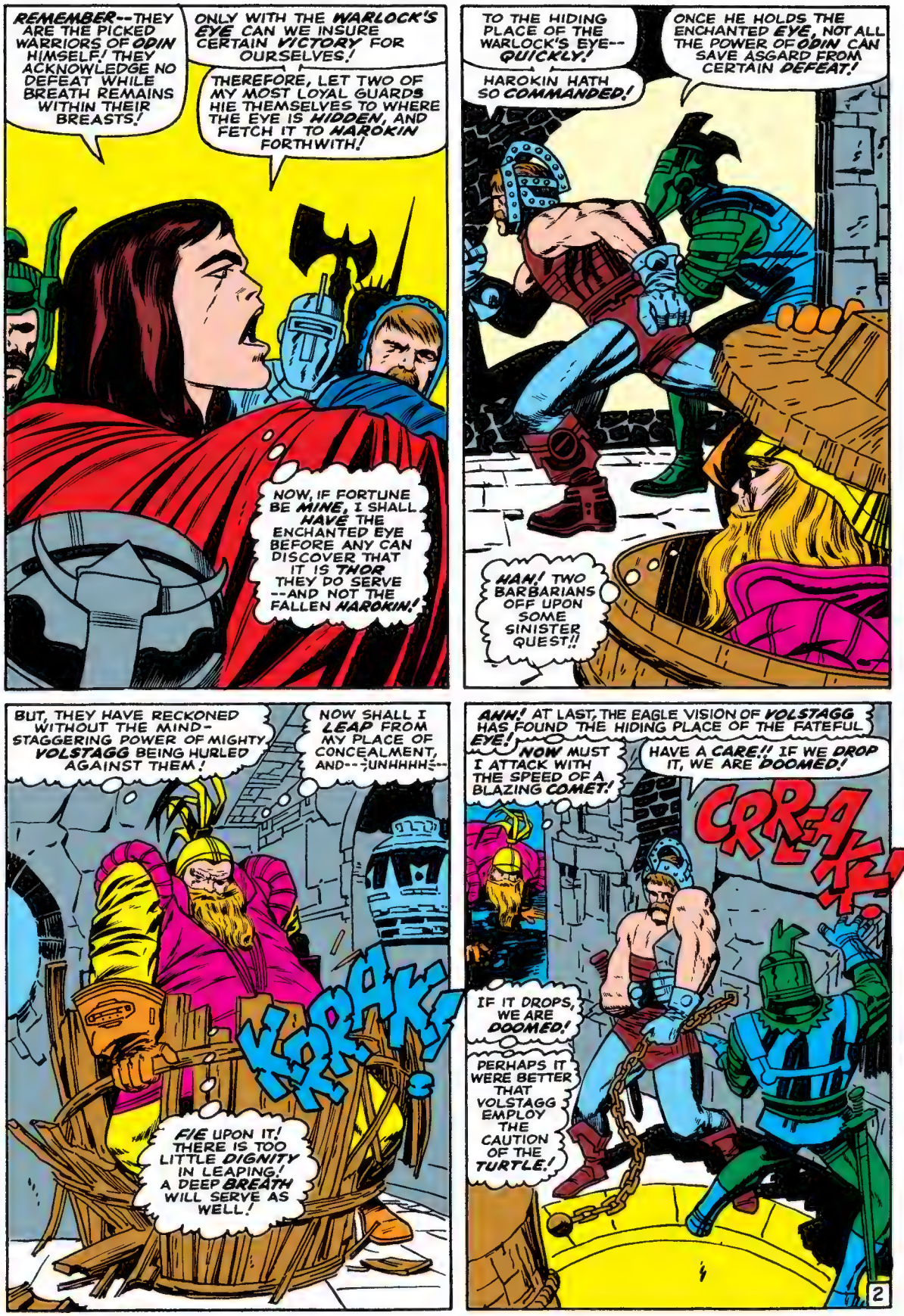

YOU WERE TOO LATE, THUNDER GOD! WE CAN MENTALLY CHANGE OUR PHYSICAL DENSITY WITH THE ACTUAL SPEED OF THOUGHT!
THUS, YOU NOW STRIKE TWO RIGELIANS WHOSE BODIES CAN RESIST ANY PHYSICAL FORCE!
:UNNHHH--:

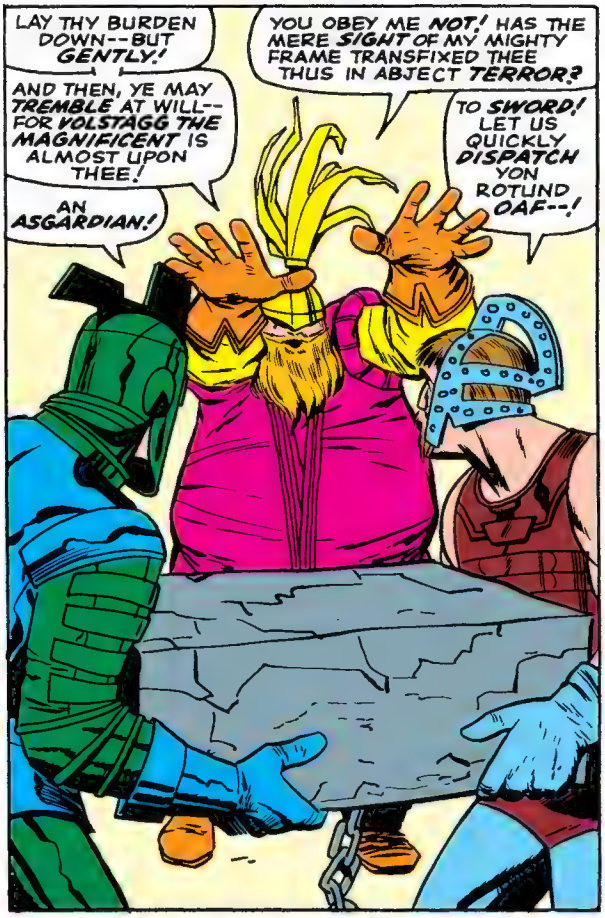
PUT DOWN YOUR HAMMER, THUNDER GOD! IT CAN AVAIL YOU NAUGHT! YOU MUST SURRENDER!
NEVER!
STILL DO I LIVE--THUS, STILL DO I FIGHT!

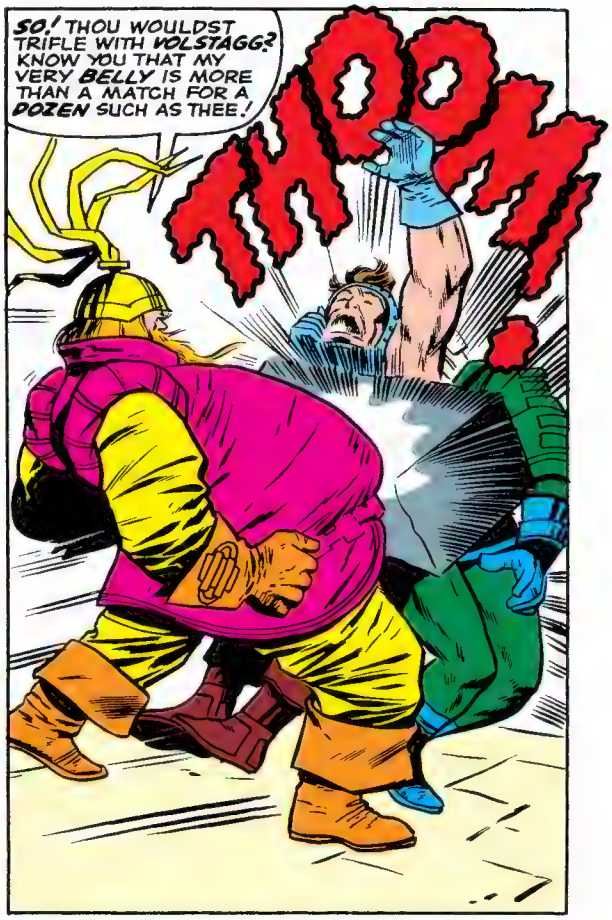
FIGHT? HOW CAN YOU FIGHT THE POWER OF UNLIMITED DENSITY?
AT MAXIMUM DENSITY, A BLOW FROM AN INSPECTOR IS EQUAL TO THE FORCE OF A COSMIC TORNADO!

IT CANNOT BE! AGAIN HE RISES--RISES FROM A BLOW THAT WOULD HAVE FELLED AN ARMY!
THOU SPEAKEST TO THOR OF COSMIC TORNADOS!
SO NOW--KNOW YOU THIS--
'TIS I WHO AM GOD OF THUNDER!
'TIS I WHO AM MASTER OF THE STORMS OF SPACE!
THE FURY AND THE FORCE OF THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES ARE MINE!
NOT ALL THY SCIENCE--NOT ALL THY DENSITY--CAN SAVE THEE FROM THE POWER OF THOR!
BUT, THOUGH CONSCIOUSNESS HATH FLED FROM THEIR BODIES--THE BATTLE IS NOT YET ENDED!
I MUST REMAIN A PASSENGER UPON THIS SHIP--
FOR, ONLY ON THE HOME PLANET OF RIGEL CAN THE FIGHT TO SAVE MANKIND BE TRULY WON!
AND NOW, BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN, I PRAY THE ODDS THAT AWAIT ME BE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE!
THOUGH IT BE UNTHINKABLE--IF I SHOULD FAIL--THEN JANE--AND ALL MANKIND--ARE TRULY DOOMED!
NEXT ISSUE:
"RIGEL!"
16

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
"THE WARLOCK'S EYE!"
THE ASGARD WARRIORS DO BATTLE WITHOUT THEIR LEADER-- THE PRINCELY THOR!
LET US ATTACK THEM NOW--ERE THE THUNDER GOD RETURNS!
THEY MUST BE TAKEN ALIVE! NO HARM IS TO BEFALL THEM!
IS HAROKIN BEREFT OF HIS SENSES? NEVER BEFORE HAS HE ORDERED AN ENEMY SPARED!
HAVING DEFEATED HAROKIN IN FAIR BATTLE, MIGHTY THOR IMPERSONATES THE BARBARIAN CHIEFTAIN, THUS HOPING TO GAIN POSSESSION OF THE ENCHANTED WARLOCK'S EYE FROM HAROKIN'S GUARDS--
LEE WROTE IT! KIRBY DREW IT! COLLETTA INKED IT! SIMEK LETTERED IT!
NO WONDER IT'S ANOTHER MAGNIFICENT MARVEL MASTERWORK!

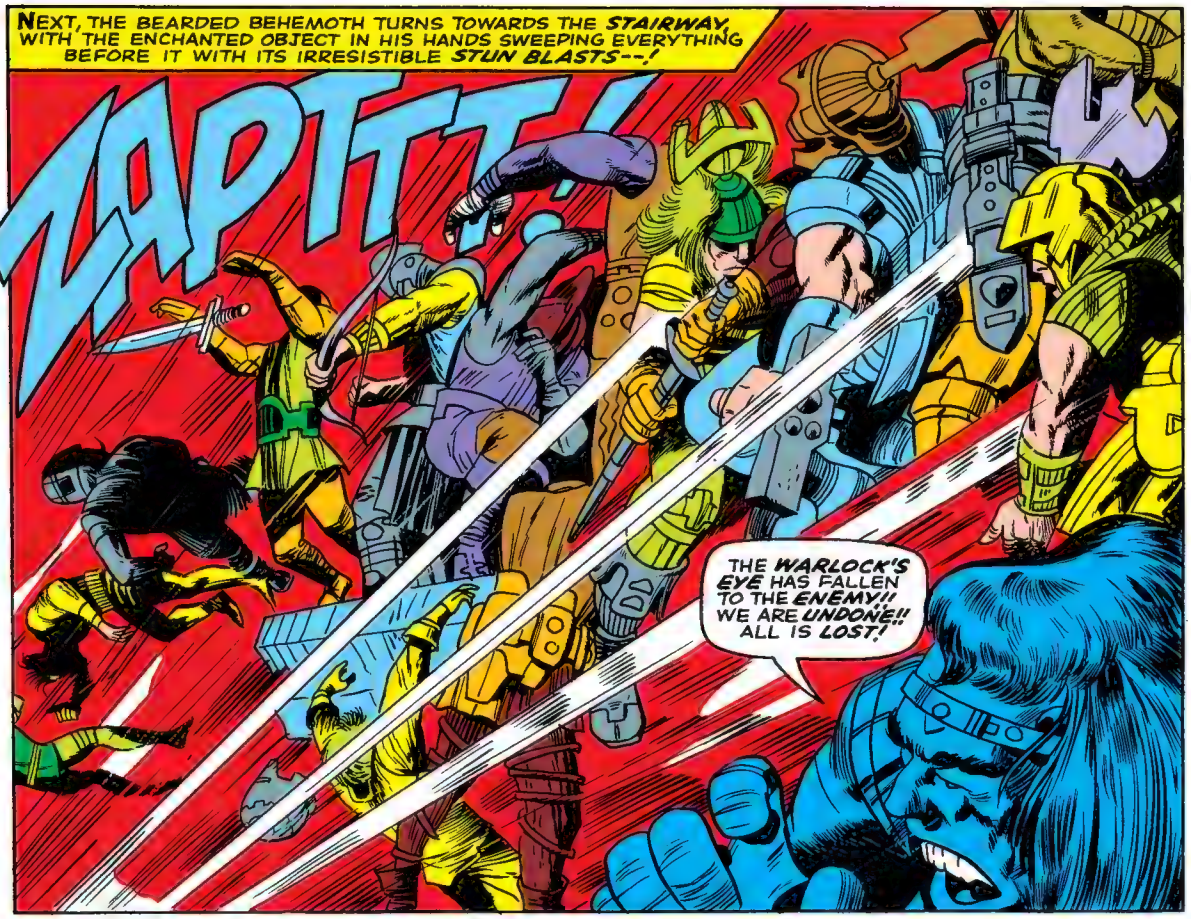

REMEMBER--THEY ARE THE PICKED WARRIORS OF ODIN HIMSELF! THEY ACKNOWLEDGE NO DEFEAT WHILE BREATH REMAINS WITHIN THEIR BREASTS!
ONLY WITH THE WARLOCK'S EYE CAN WE INSURE CERTAIN VICTORY FOR OURSELVES!
THEREFORE, LET TWO OF MY MOST LOYAL GUARDS HIE THEMSELVES TO WHERE THE EYE IS HIDDEN, AND FETCH IT TO HAROKIN FORTHWITH!
NOW, IF FORTUNE BE MINE, I SHALL HAVE THE ENCHANTED EYE BEFORE ANY CAN DISCOVER THAT IT IS THOR THEY DO SERVE --AND NOT THE FALLEN HAROKIN!
TO THE HIDING PLACE OF THE WARLOCK'S EYE-- QUICKLY!
HAROKIN HATH SO COMMANDED!
ONCE HE HOLDS THE ENCHANTED EYE, NOT ALL THE POWER OF ODIN CAN SAVE ASGARD FROM CERTAIN DEFEAT!
HAH! TWO BARBARIANS OFF UPON SOME SINISTER QUEST!!
BUT, THEY HAVE RECKONED WITHOUT THE MIND-STAGGERING POWER OF MIGHTY VOLSTAGG BEING HURLED AGAINST THEM!
NOW SHALL I LEAP FROM MY PLACE OF CONCEALMENT, AND--UNHHHH--
KRAK!
FIE UPON IT! THERE IS TOO LITTLE DIGNITY IN LEAPING! A DEEP BREATH WILL SERVE AS WELL!
AHH! AT LAST, THE EAGLE VISION OF VOLSTAGG HAS FOUND THE HIDING PLACE OF THE FATEFUL EYE!
NOW MUST I ATTACK WITH THE SPEED OF A BLAZING COMET!
HAVE A CARE!! IF WE DROP IT, WE ARE DOOMED!
CRR-EA-KK!
IF IT DROPS, WE ARE DOOMED!
PERHAPS IT WERE BETTER THAT VOLSTAGG EMPLOY THE CAUTION OF THE TURTLE!
2


LAY THY BURDEN DOWN--BUT GENTLY!
AND THEN, YE MAY TREMBLE AT WILL--FOR VOLSTAGG THE MAGNIFICENT IS ALMOST UPON THEE!
AN ASGARDIAN!
YOU OBEY ME NOT! HAS THE MERE SIGHT OF MY MIGHTY FRAME TRANSFIXED THEE THUS IN ABJECT TERROR?
TO SWORD! LET US QUICKLY DISPATCH YON ROTUND OAF--!


SO! THOU WOULDST TRIFLE WITH VOLSTAGG? KNOW YOU THAT MY VERY BELLY IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR A DOZEN SUCH AS THEE!
THOOM!

BEHOLD! A SINGLE ASGARDIAN HATH SEIZED THE WARLOCK'S EYE!
IN TRUTH, I THOUGHT HE WAS A TENT, BEING BILLOWED BY THE PASSING BREEZE!
OUR BLADES SHALL BILLOW HIM NOW!! AFTER HIM!!

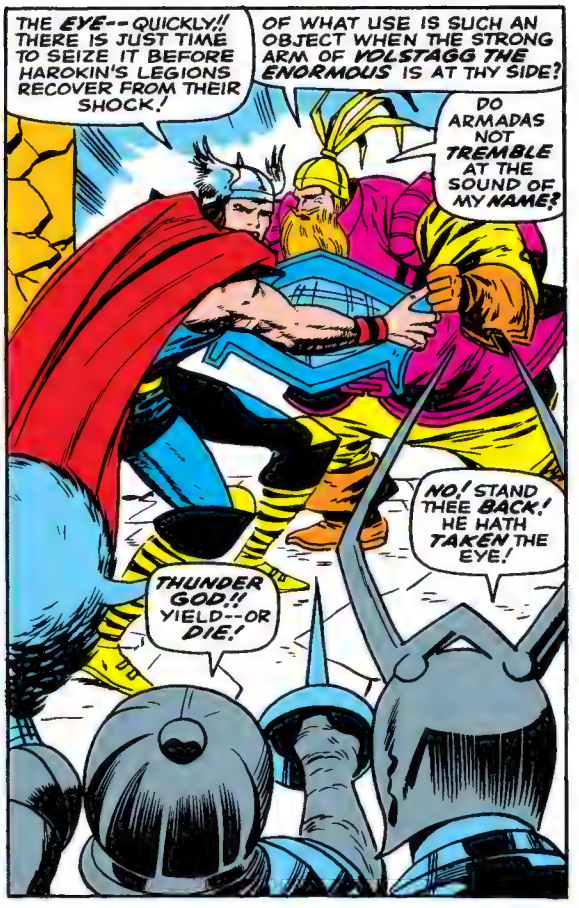
BUT, BEFORE THE BARBARIANS CAN TAKE ANOTHER STEP, THE ENORMOUS VOLSTAGG TURNS TO FACE THEM--WITH THE WARLOCK'S EYE HELD FIRMLY IN HIS HANDS--AND THEN--
YAPITT!
THE EYE!! IT OPENS!! BEWARE THE STUN BLAST!! BEWARE--OHHHHHHHHH--
3


NEXT, THE BEARDED BEHEMOTH TURNS TOWARDS THE STAIRWAY WITH THE ENCHANTED OBJECT IN HIS HANDS SWEEPING EVERYTHING BEFORE IT WITH ITS IRRESISTIBLE STUN BLASTS--!
ZAP!!!
THE WARLOCK'S EYE HAS FALLEN TO THE ENEMY!! WE ARE UNDONE!! ALL IS LOST!

HAH! ONCE AGAIN THE LION OF ASGARD IS TRIUMPHANT!!
AT THE MEREST SIGHT OF ME, ENTIRE ARMIES COLLAPSE IN SHEER PANIC AND DESPAIR!
BUT, THE TIME HAS COME FOR VOLSTAGG TO CONQUER HAROKIN HIMSELF!

THUS, MOMENTS LATER, STILL UNAWARE OF THE POWER WHICH LIES WITHIN THE OBJECT HE IS CARRYING, THE IRREPRESSIBLE VOLSTAGG COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE GOD OF THUNDER--STILL DISGUISED AS HAROKIN--!
HAROKIN--SURRENDER, IN THE NAME OF ETERNAL ASGARD!
'TIS VOLSTAGG! BUT HE KNOWS ME NOT!
I MUST STOP HIM, BEFORE THE WARLOCK'S EYE DOTH OPEN ONCE AGAIN!
BY THE GALAXY!! THE VERY PRESENCE OF VOLSTAGG HATH TAKEN AWAY THY POWER OF SPEECH!

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE SON OF ODIN, WITH ONE PROUD GESTURE, WHIPS OPEN HIS CAPE, REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY--
VOLSTAGG!! PUT DOWN THE EYE!! 'TIS THE THUNDER GOD HIMSELF THOU DOTH FACE!
BEHOLD!! THE PRINCE OF ASGARD!! WE HAVE BEEN DECEIVED!!


THE EYE--QUICKLY!! THERE IS JUST TIME TO SEIZE IT BEFORE HAROKIN'S LEGIONS RECOVER FROM THEIR SHOCK!
OF WHAT USE IS SUCH AN OBJECT WHEN THE STRONG ARM OF VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS IS AT THY SIDE?
DO ARMADAS NOT TREMBLE AT THE SOUND OF MY NAME?
NO! STAND THEE BACK! HE HATH TAKEN THE EYE!
THUNDER GOD!! YIELD--OR DIE!

LAY YOU DOWN YOUR ARMS! THE BATTLE IS ENDED! THE WARLOCK'S EYE IS MINE!
FANDRAL! HOGUN! COLLECT YOU THEIR WEAPONS!
NONE WILL DARE RAISE SWORD AGAINST HIM WHO HOLDS THE WARLOCK'S EYE!
5

THE CAUSE NOW IS WON!
BUT--WHAT NOW BECOMES OF--HAROKIN?
NEXT ISSUE:
"THE DARK HORSE OF DEATH!"

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IND.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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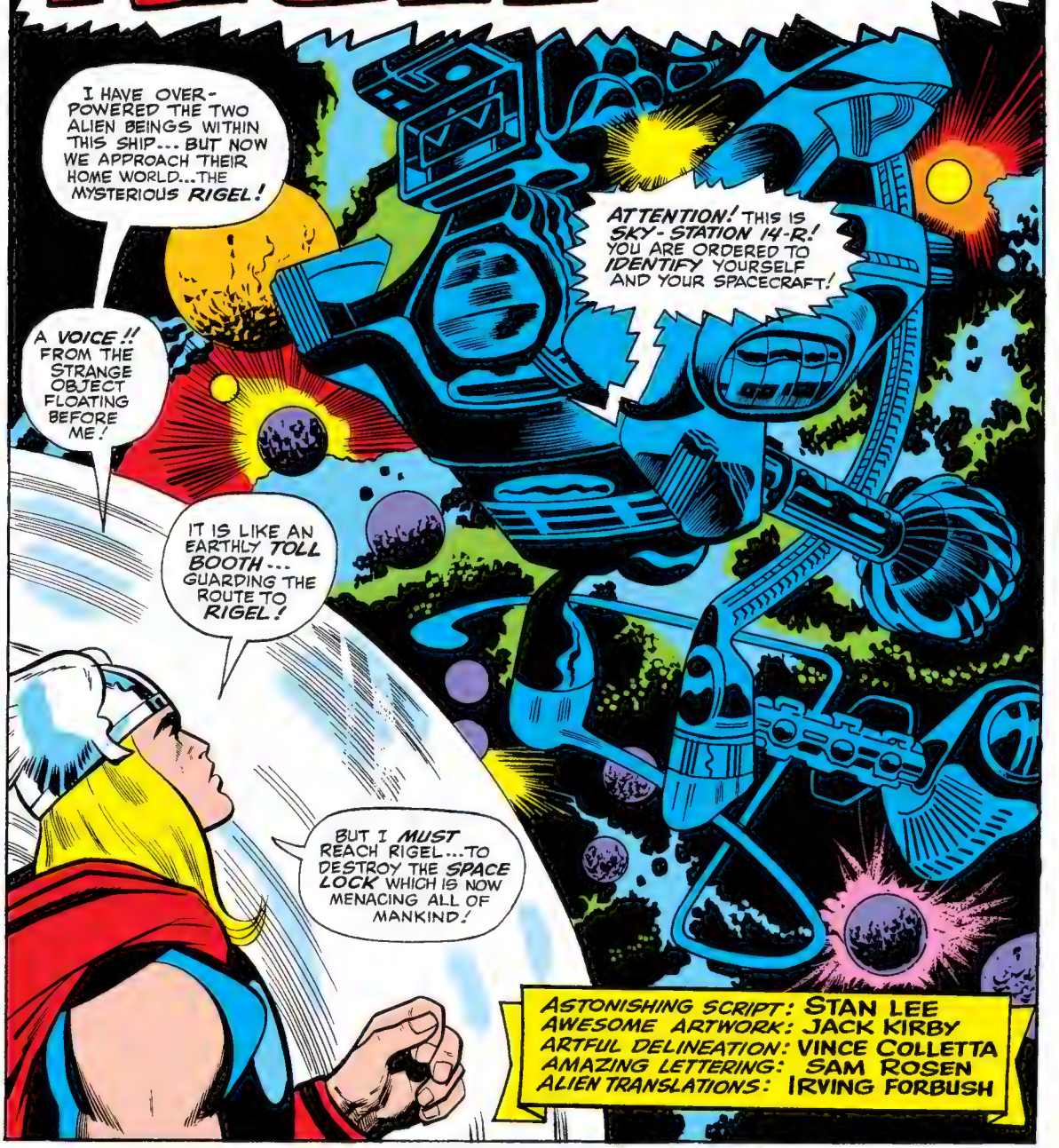
132
SEPT
"WHERE GODS MAY FEAR TO TREAD!"

# THE MIGHTY THOR!

# RIGEL

## "WHERE GODS MAY FEAR TO TREAD!"

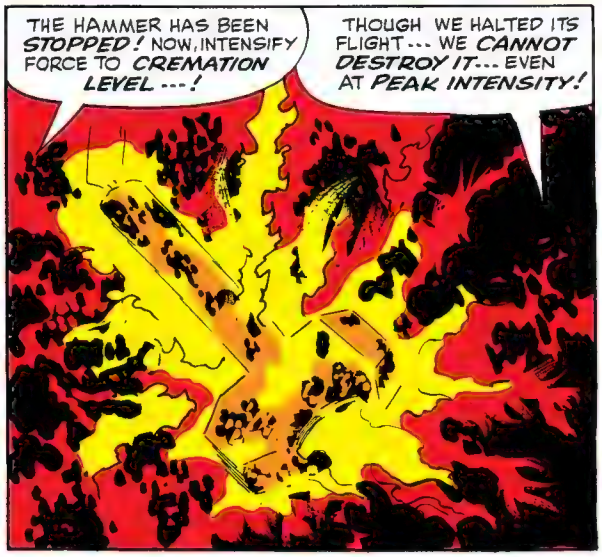

I HAVE OVER-POWERED THE TWO ALIEN BEINGS WITHIN THIS SHIP... BUT NOW WE APPROACH THEIR HOME WORLD...THE MYSTERIOUS RIGEL!
ATTENTION! THIS IS SKY-STATION 14-R! YOU ARE ORDERED TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND YOUR SPACECRAFT!
A VOICE!! FROM THE STRANGE OBJECT FLOATING BEFORE ME!
IT IS LIKE AN EARTHLY TOLL BOOTH... GUARDING THE ROUTE TO RIGEL!
BUT I MUST REACH RIGEL...TO DESTROY THE SPACE LOCK WHICH IS NOW MENACING ALL OF MANKIND!

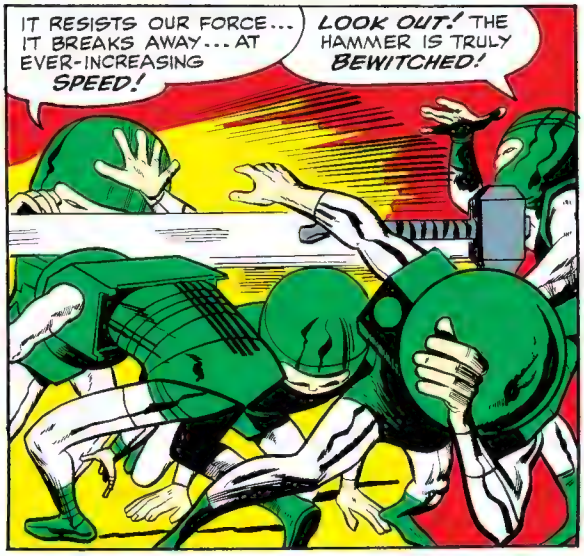
ASTONISHING SCRIPT: STAN LEE
AWESOME ARTWORK: JACK KIRBY
ARTFUL DELINEATION: VINCE COLLETTA
AMAZING LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
ALIEN TRANSLATIONS: IRVING FORBUSH

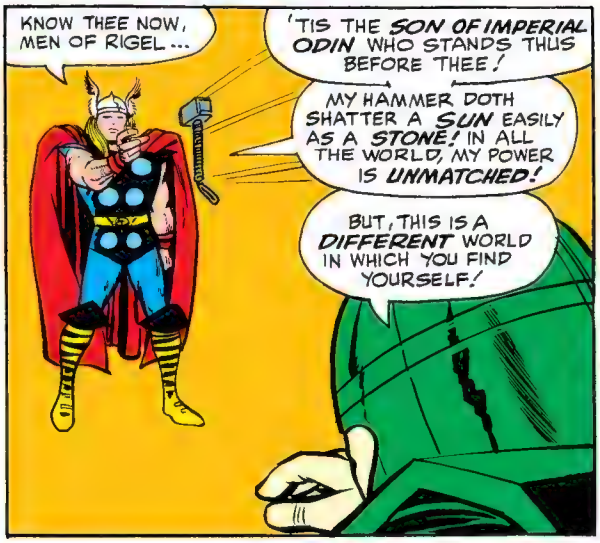
WE CAN OBSERVE THAT YOU ARE NOT ONE OF OUR COLONIZERS! THEREFORE, YOU MUST BE AN ENEMY!
NEITHER FRIEND NOR FOE AM I! MY NAME IS THOR... MY RANK... PRINCE OF ASGARD... MY HERITAGE.. GOD OF THUNDER!
I COMMAND THEE TO REMOVE YON SPACE LOCK FROM THE PLANET EARTH... OR SUFFER MY BOUNDLESS WRATH!
THUS SPEAKS THE SON OF ODIN!
NONE THREATEN THE COLONIZERS OF RIGEL!
A SHIP LEAVES THE SKY STATION -- HEADED DIRECTLY TOWARDS ME!
WE SHALL GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE INVADER'S SHIP VIA A BRIDGE OF ION-PACKED ATOMS!
BEHOLD! THE INVADER APPROACHES US!
QUICKLY! STOP HIM WITH A MIND THRUST!
STAND YE BACK... ALL! THE PATIENCE OF THOR HATH TRULY REACHED ITS END!
IT IS TO NO AVAIL! HIS POWER IS FAR GREATER THAN OURS!
2.

HE MUST BE STOPPED! BRING FORTH THE ANTI-PERSONNEL BLASTERS..!
STILL THOU DAREST DEFY ME?!!
THEN LET THE FURY OF MY URU HAMMER TEACH THEE THE FOLLY OF SUCH A COURSE!

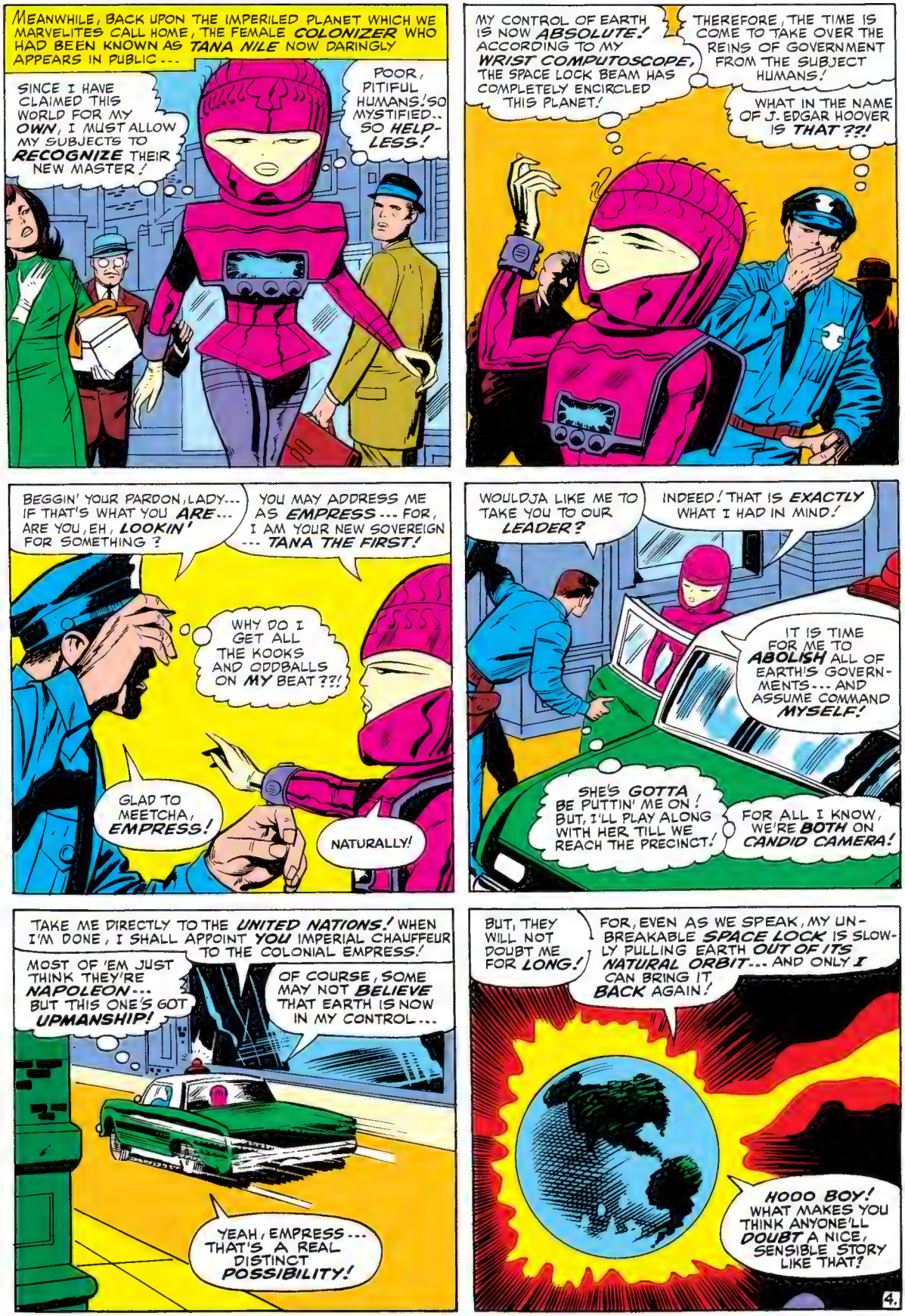
BUT, BEFORE THE ENCHANTED MALLET CAN STRIKE, A CALM, CLEAR COMMAND IS GIVEN ---
FORM A GROUP MIND DEFENSE!! COMBINE MIND THRUSTS..NOW!
IT IS SO DONE!

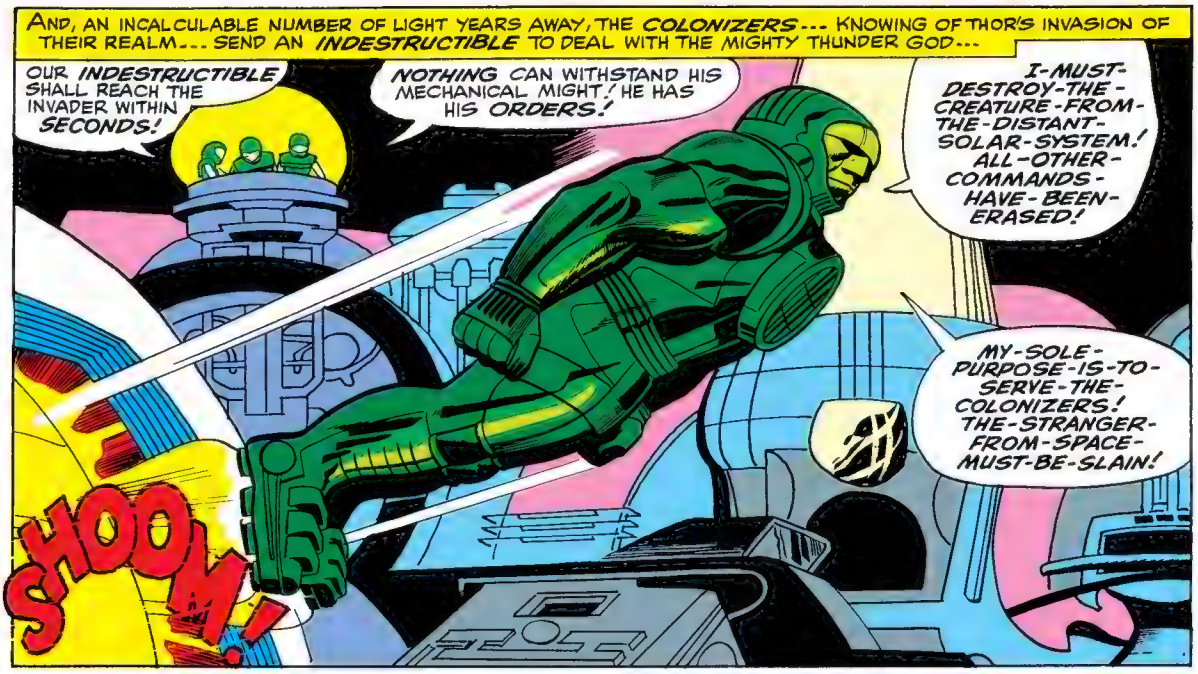

THE HAMMER HAS BEEN STOPPED! NOW, INTENSIFY FORCE TO CREMATION LEVEL ---!
THOUGH WE HALTED ITS FLIGHT... WE CANNOT DESTROY IT... EVEN AT PEAK INTENSITY!

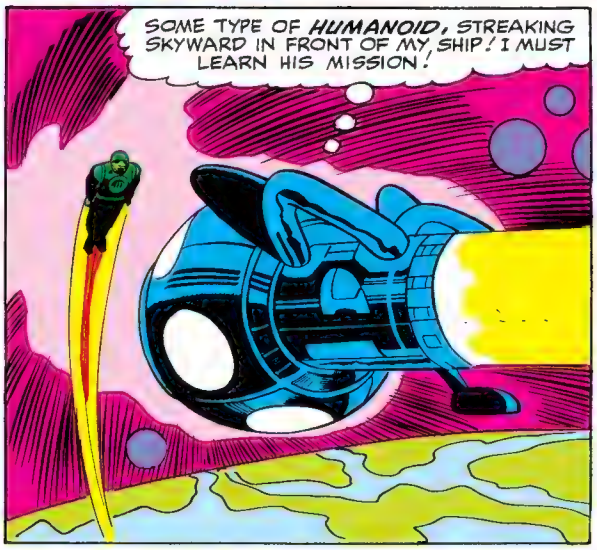

IT RESISTS OUR FORCE... IT BREAKS AWAY... AT EVER-INCREASING SPEED!
LOOK OUT! THE HAMMER IS TRULY BEWITCHED!

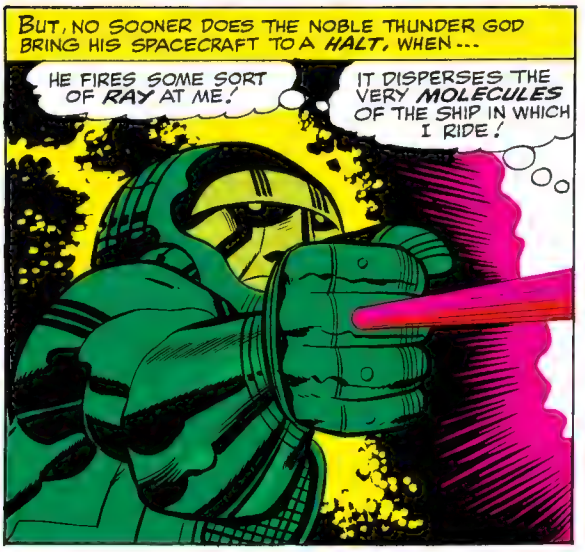

KNOW THEE NOW, MEN OF RIGEL...
'TIS THE SON OF IMPERIAL ODIN WHO STANDS THUS BEFORE THEE!
MY HAMMER DOTH SHATTER A SUN EASILY AS A STONE! IN ALL THE WORLD, MY POWER IS UNMATCHED!
BUT, THIS IS A DIFFERENT WORLD IN WHICH YOU FIND YOURSELF!

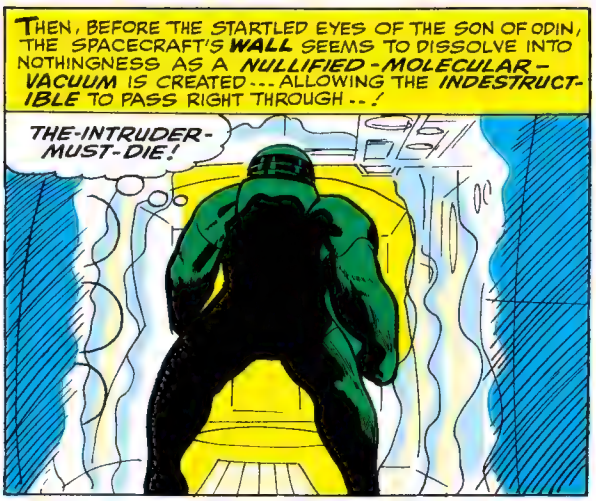
NO MATTER! I NOW TAKE COMMAND OF THY SHIP AND ALL ITS EFFECTS!
NOW GO WE FORTHWITH TO THE PLANET RIGEL...
..AND TO THE SPACE LOCK WHICH THREATENS THOSE WHO DWELL UPON EARTH!

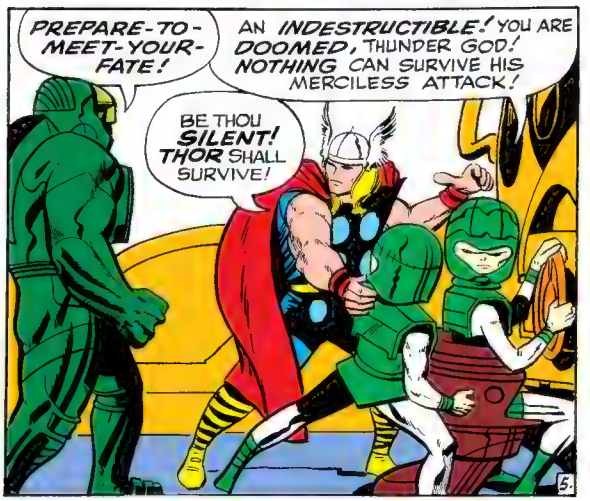

MEANWHILE, BACK UPON THE IMPERILED PLANET WHICH WE MARVELITES CALL HOME, THE FEMALE COLONIZER WHO HAD BEEN KNOWN AS TANA NILE NOW DARINGLY APPEARS IN PUBLIC ---
SINCE I HAVE CLAIMED THIS WORLD FOR MY OWN, I MUST ALLOW MY SUBJECTS TO RECOGNIZE THEIR NEW MASTER!
POOR, PITIFUL HUMANS! SO MYSTIFIED.. SO HELP-LESS!
MY CONTROL OF EARTH IS NOW ABSOLUTE! ACCORDING TO MY WRIST COMPUTOSCOPE, THE SPACE LOCK BEAM HAS COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED THIS PLANET!
THEREFORE, THE TIME IS COME TO TAKE OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE SUBJECT HUMANS!
WHAT IN THE NAME OF J. EDGAR HOOVER IS THAT ??!
BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, LADY--- IF THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE... ARE YOU, EH, LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHING ?
YOU MAY ADDRESS ME AS EMPRESS --- FOR, I AM YOUR NEW SOVEREIGN --- TANA THE FIRST!
WHY DO I GET ALL THE KOOKS AND ODDBALLS ON MY BEAT ??!
GLAD TO MEETCHA, EMPRESS!
NATURALLY!
WOULDJA LIKE ME TO TAKE YOU TO OUR LEADER?
INDEED! THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO ABOLISH ALL OF EARTH'S GOVERN-MENTS --- AND ASSUME COMMAND MYSELF!
SHE'S GOTTA BE PUTTIN' ME ON ! BUT, I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH HER TILL WE REACH THE PRECINCT!
FOR ALL I KNOW, WE'RE BOTH ON CANDID CAMERA!
TAKE ME DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS! WHEN I'M DONE, I SHALL APPOINT YOU IMPERIAL CHAUFFEUR TO THE COLONIAL EMPRESS!
MOST OF 'EM JUST THINK THEY'RE NAPOLEON --- BUT THIS ONE'S GOT UPMANSHIP!
OF COURSE, SOME MAY NOT BELIEVE THAT EARTH IS NOW IN MY CONTROL ---
YEAH, EMPRESS --- THAT'S A REAL DISTINCT POSSIBILITY!
BUT, THEY WILL NOT DOUBT ME FOR LONG!
FOR, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MY UN-BREAKABLE SPACE LOCK IS SLOW-LY PULLING EARTH OUT OF ITS NATURAL ORBIT --- AND ONLY I CAN BRING IT BACK AGAIN!
HOOO BOY! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK ANYONE'LL DOUBT A NICE, SENSIBLE STORY LIKE THAT?
4.


AND, AN INCALCULABLE NUMBER OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY, THE COLONIZERS --- KNOWING OF THOR'S INVASION OF THEIR REALM --- SEND AN INDESTRUCTIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD ---
OUR INDESTRUCTIBLE SHALL REACH THE INVADER WITHIN SECONDS!
NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND HIS MECHANICAL MIGHT! HE HAS HIS ORDERS!
I-MUST-DESTROY-THE-CREATURE-FROM-THE-DISTANT-SOLAR-SYSTEM! ALL-OTHER-COMMANDS-HAVE-BEEN-ERASED!
MY-SOLE-PURPOSE-IS-TO-SERVE-THE-COLONIZERS! THE-STRANGER-FROM-SPACE-MUST-BE-SLAIN!
SHOOM!


SOME TYPE OF HUMANOID, STREAKING SKYWARD IN FRONT OF MY SHIP! I MUST LEARN HIS MISSION!

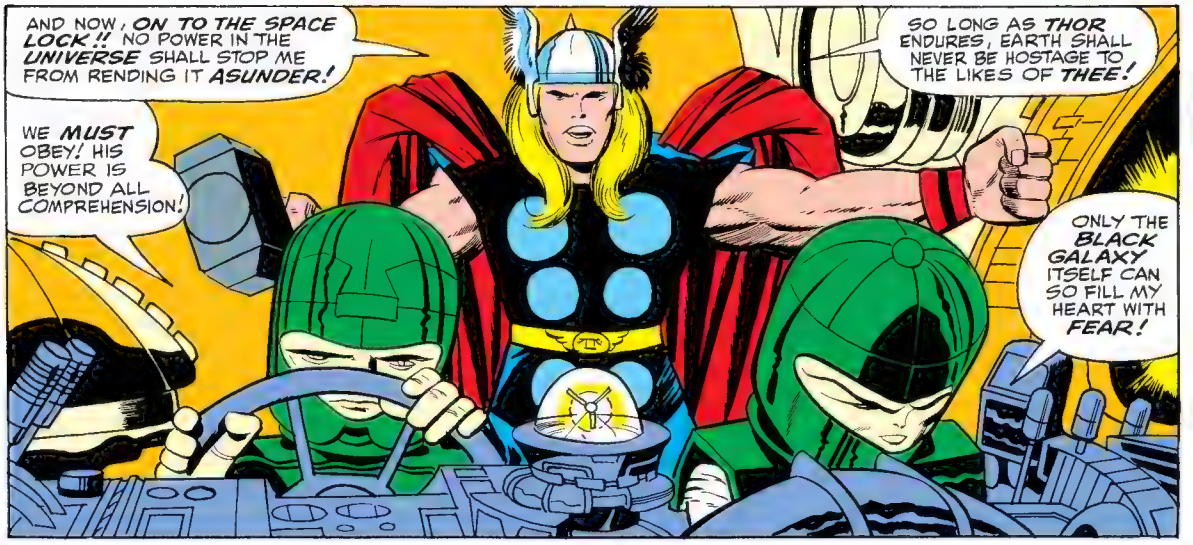

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE NOBLE THUNDER GOD BRING HIS SPACECRAFT TO A HALT, WHEN ---
HE FIRES SOME SORT OF RAY AT ME!
IT DISPERSES THE VERY MOLECULES OF THE SHIP IN WHICH I RIDE!

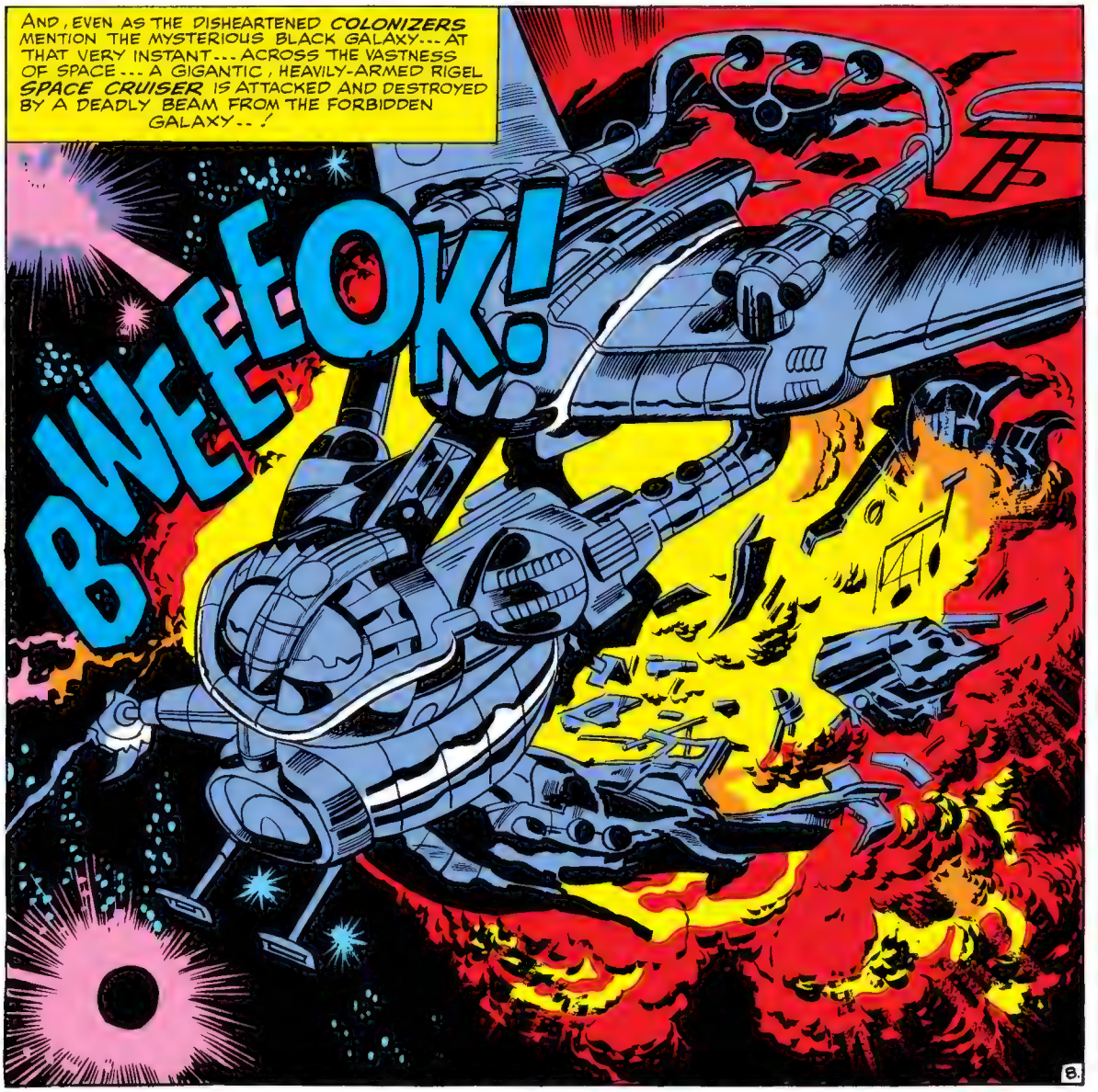

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE SON OF ODIN, THE SPACECRAFT'S WALL SEEMS TO DISSOLVE INTO NOTHINGNESS AS A NULLIFIED-MOLECULAR-VACUUM IS CREATED --- ALLOWING THE INDESTRUCTIBLE TO PASS RIGHT THROUGH --!
THE-INTRUDER-MUST-DIE!

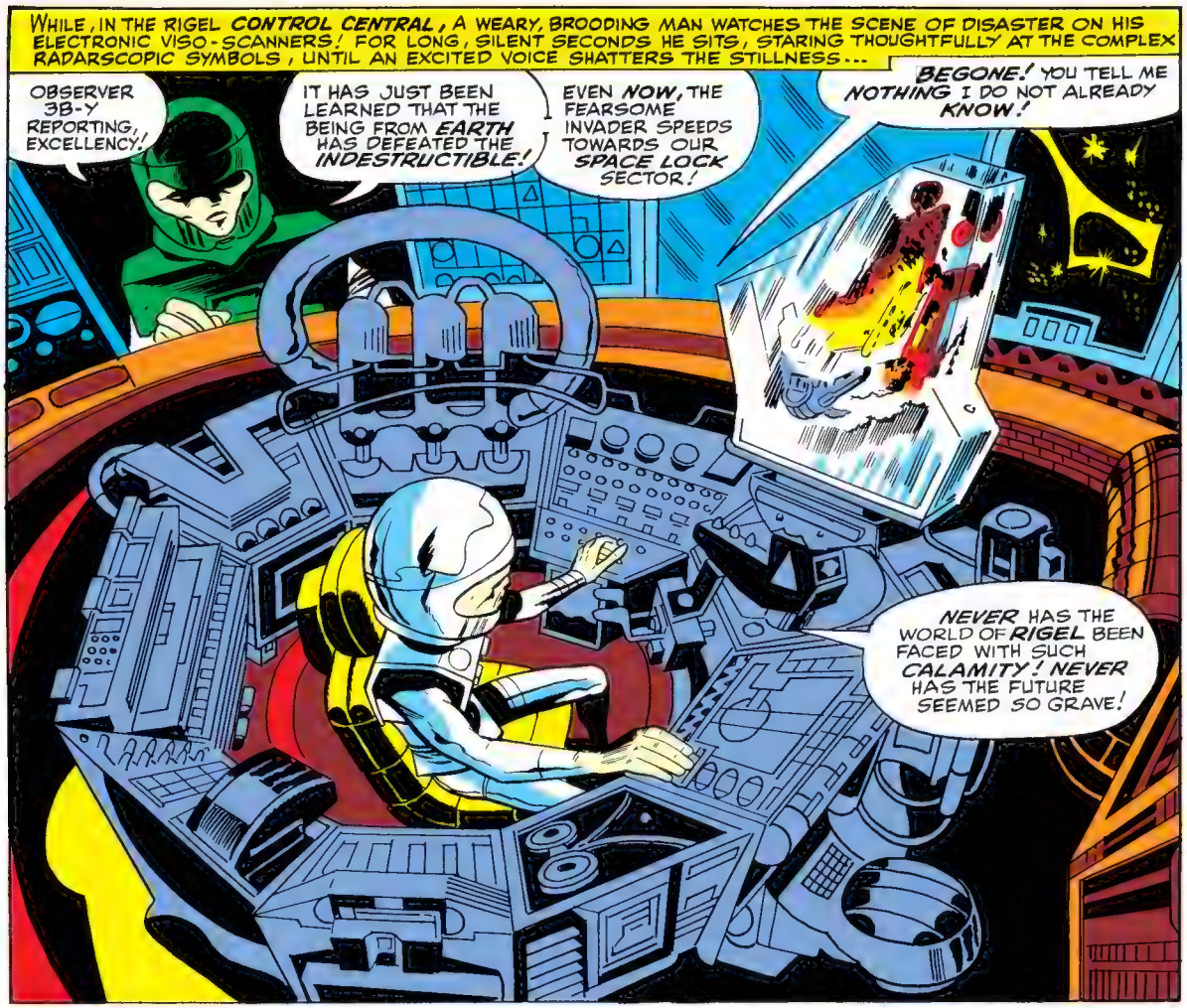

PREPARE-TO-MEET-YOUR-FATE!
AN INDESTRUCTIBLE! YOU ARE DOOMED, THUNDER GOD! NOTHING CAN SURVIVE HIS MERCILESS ATTACK!
BE THOU SILENT! THOR SHALL SURVIVE!
5.

I-WAS-CREATED-TO-DEFEND-THE-WORLD-OF-RIGEL! MY-POWER-IS-SUPREME!
STRUGGLE-NOT! YOUR-END-SHALL-BE-SWIFT-AND-PAINLESS!
HIS GRIP IS STRONGER THAN ANY I HAVE EVER FELT!
FOR-YOUR-OWN-SAKE-YIELD! I-DO-NOT-DESIRE-TO-CAUSE-PAIN!
NO MATTER HOW GREAT THY STRENGTH.. I AM THE MIGHTY THOR!! MINE IS THE POWER OF ASGARD ... THE FURY AND MAJESTY OF THE STORMS OF SPACE!
BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN... NONE MAY CONQUER THOR!
THEN, AS THE INDESTRUCTIBLE SHRUGS OFF THE STAGGERING BLOW, AND LUMBERS FORWARD AGAIN, THE THUNDER GOD WHIRLS HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER SO FAST THAT IT BEGINS TO HEAT ITS OWN ATOMS...
BACK, THOU UNSPEAKABLE MOCKERY OF ALL THAT BE MORTAL!
YOU-ARE-TOO-POWERFUL... TO-LIVE!
6.

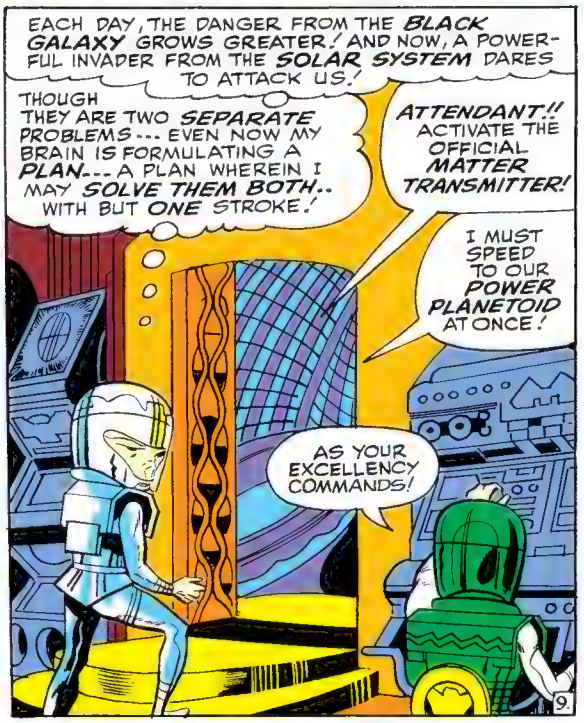
THOUGH-YOUR-HAMMER-HAS-BECOME-AN-ATOMIC-FLARE... STILL-AM-I-UNHARMED! STILL-AM-I-INDESTRUCTIBLE!
NOW-STAND-READY-FOR-YOUR-DOOM!
HE WITHSTANDS A PLANET-SHAKING ATOMIC STORM AS THOUGH IT BE A MILD SUMMER RAIN!
TRULY, HE HATH BEEN NAMED INDESTRUCTIBLE FOR GOOD AND PROPER REASON!
AND-NOW---MY-ULTIMATE-WEAPON!
A-GAMMA-POWERED-IMMOBILIZER-BEAM...SO-IRRESISTIBLE-THAT-EVEN-I-CANNOT-WITHSTAND-ITS-TOUCH!
ZZZOWIE!
A PITY THY SPEED IS NOT THE EQUAL OF THY POWER!
NO MATTER HOW INFALLIBLE ... HOW DEADLY THY RAY MAY BE ...
... UNLESS IT DOTH STRIKE THY VICTIM, IT IS AS NAUGHT!
THOK!
SLOWLY, AGONIZINGLY, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD FORCES THE INDESTRUCTIBLE'S ARM BACK ... AND BACK .. AND BACK ... UNTIL ...
..THE AWESOME CREATURE SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR.. MOTIONLESS ... HAVING BEEN FELLED BY THE IMPACT OF ITS OWN ULTIMATE WEAPON!
IT IS DONE!
NEVER BEFORE HAS AN INDESTRUCTIBLE SUFFERED SUCH DEFEAT!
NEVER HATH ONE FOUGHT THE GOD OF THUNDER!
7.


AND NOW, ON TO THE SPACE LOCK!! NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE SHALL STOP ME FROM RENDING IT ASUNDER!
WE MUST OBEY! HIS POWER IS BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION!
SO LONG AS THOR ENDURES, EARTH SHALL NEVER BE HOSTAGE TO THE LIKES OF THEE!
ONLY THE BLACK GALAXY ITSELF CAN SO FILL MY HEART WITH FEAR!


AND, EVEN AS THE DISHEARTENED COLONIZERS MENTION THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK GALAXY--- AT THAT VERY INSTANT--- ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE --- A GIGANTIC, HEAVILY-ARMED RIGEL SPACE CRUISER IS ATTACKED AND DESTROYED BY A DEADLY BEAM FROM THE FORBIDDEN GALAXY--!
BWEE-OK!


WHILE, IN THE RIGEL CONTROL CENTRAL, A WEARY, BROODING MAN WATCHES THE SCENE OF DISASTER ON HIS ELECTRONIC VISO-SCANNERS! FOR LONG, SILENT SECONDS HE SITS, STARING THOUGHTFULLY AT THE COMPLEX RADARSCOPIC SYMBOLS, UNTIL AN EXCITED VOICE SHATTERS THE STILLNESS...
OBSERVER 3B-Y REPORTING, EXCELLENCY!
IT HAS JUST BEEN LEARNED THAT THE BEING FROM EARTH HAS DEFEATED THE INDESTRUCTIBLE!
EVEN NOW, THE FEARSOME INVADER SPEEDS TOWARDS OUR SPACE LOCK SECTOR!
BEGONE! YOU TELL ME NOTHING I DO NOT ALREADY KNOW!
NEVER HAS THE WORLD OF RIGEL BEEN FACED WITH SUCH CALAMITY! NEVER HAS THE FUTURE SEEMED SO GRAVE!

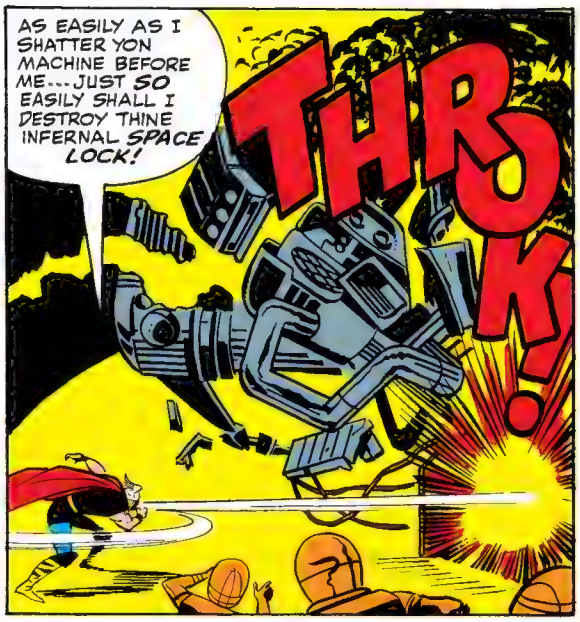
I NEVER DESIRED TO BE GRAND COMMISSIONER OF RIGEL! THE BURDENS OF MY SUPREME OFFICE ARE TOO MUCH FOR ANY ONE MAN!
BUT, SINCE MY I.Q. RATING IS HIGHEST IN ALL THIS SECTOR, IT HAS BEEN MY DUTY TO SERVE!
YET NOW, AFTER ALL THESE DECADES... WE ARE THREATENED WITH... DISASTER!

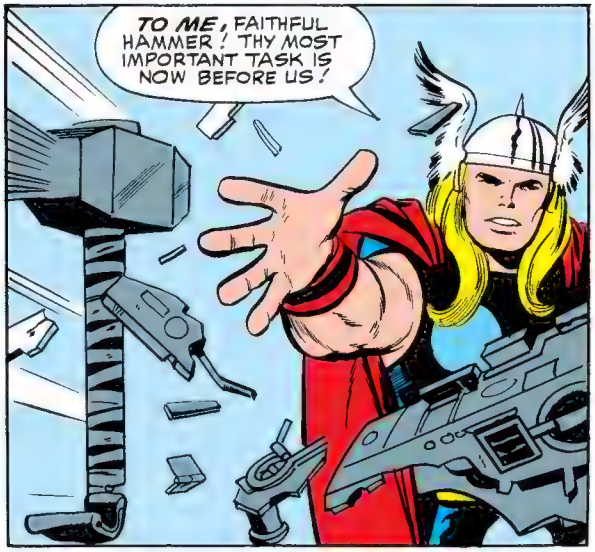

EACH DAY, THE DANGER FROM THE BLACK GALAXY GROWS GREATER! AND NOW, A POWERFUL INVADER FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM DARES TO ATTACK US!
THOUGH THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE PROBLEMS... EVEN NOW MY BRAIN IS FORMULATING A PLAN... A PLAN WHEREIN I MAY SOLVE THEM BOTH.. WITH BUT ONE STROKE!
ATTENDANT!! ACTIVATE THE OFFICIAL MATTER TRANSMITTER!
I MUST SPEED TO OUR POWER PLANETOID AT ONCE!
AS YOUR EXCELLENCY COMMANDS!

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE GRAND COMMISSIONER STEPS INTO THE STRUCTURAL DISSEMBLER ON THE HOME PLANET, AND EMERGES IN THE STRUCTURAL RESTORER UPON THE CLOSELY-GUARDED POWER PLANETOID!
YOUR EXCELLENCY! HAD WE KNOWN OF YOUR ARRIVAL, WE WOULD HAVE MUSTERED THE HONOR GUARD!
NO TIME FOR THAT NOW!
ARE YOUR OBSERVO-LENSES STILL TRACKING THE INVADER'S APPROACH? IS HE STILL HEADED THIS WAY?
YES, EXCELLENCY!
THEN IT IS AS I FEARED!
HE COMES TO ATTACK OUR SPACE LOCK, TO FREE THE DISTANT PLANET EARTH!
IT IS THE FAULT OF COLONIZER TANA NILE! IF SHE HAD REPORTED THAT EARTH HAD SO MIGHTY A DEFENDER, WE WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION TO ATTEMPT COLONIZATION!
BUT THE SPACE LOCK MUST BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS!
AND, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT...
I SEE THE SPACE LOCK NOW!
DRAW CLOSER TO IT, AND TO THE PLANETOID OVER WHICH IT ORBITS!
NOW, HOLD THY COURSE, AS I SHATTER YON EVIL DEVICE WITH BUT ONE BLOW OF MY URU HAMMER!
10.

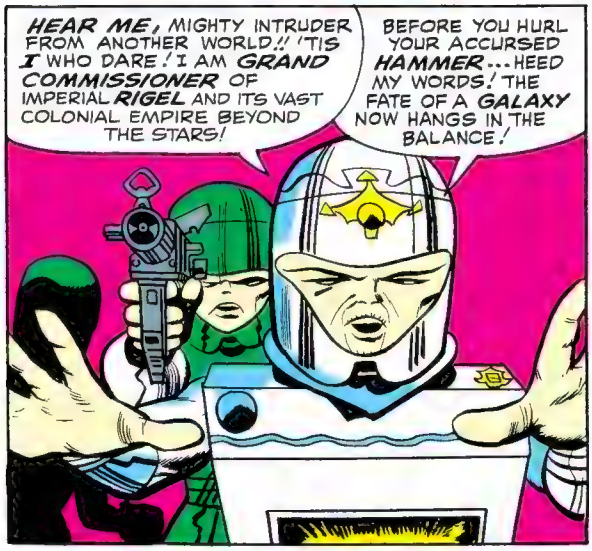
BUT, BEFORE THE THUNDER GOD CAN HURL HIS ENCHANTED MALLET, AN INVISIBLE TRACTOR FORCE ZEROES IN ON HIS MAJESTIC FIGURE, DRAWING HIM IRRESISTIBLY TOWARDS THE PLANETOID BELOW---
WE'VE GOT HIM!
BY THE GOLDEN SPIRES OF ASGARD... WHAT WITCHERY IS THIS?!!
AN UNSEEN FORCE--- DRAWING ME DOWN--- TO WHERE YON COLONIZERS WAIT TO ATTACK ME BELOW!
BUT, THEY SHALL LEARN... TO THEIR ETERNAL DISMAY. IT IS THOR WHO ATTACKS!! IT IS THOR WHO WIELDS THE POWER!
BACK, YE SCURRILOUS KNAVES!! THOUGH YE BE MANY AS THE SANDS ON THE SHORE---NONE MAY STAY MY HAMMER'S VENGEANCE!
BACK, THEN, BEFORE THE FURY OF A GOD!! MY WRATH SHALL BE UNABATED SO LONG AS YONDER SPACE LOCK ENDURES!
SKAK!
EARTH IS NO UNPROTECTED WASTELAND, TO BE CONQUERED AND PILLAGED BY SUCH AS THEE!
11.

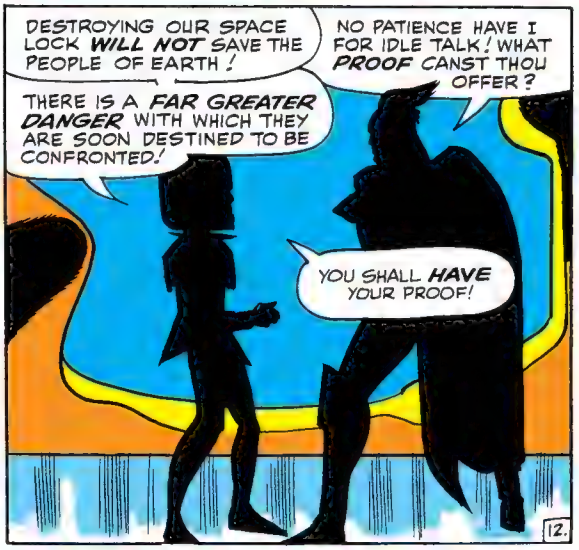
LET HIM WHO WOULD DEFY ME STAND FORTH!! ELSE SURRENDER ALL--- WHILE YET YE MAY!
THUS SPEAKS THOR--PRINCE OF ASGARD--- SON OF LORDLY ODIN!
WHOOOOOOSHH
OOOOOSHHH

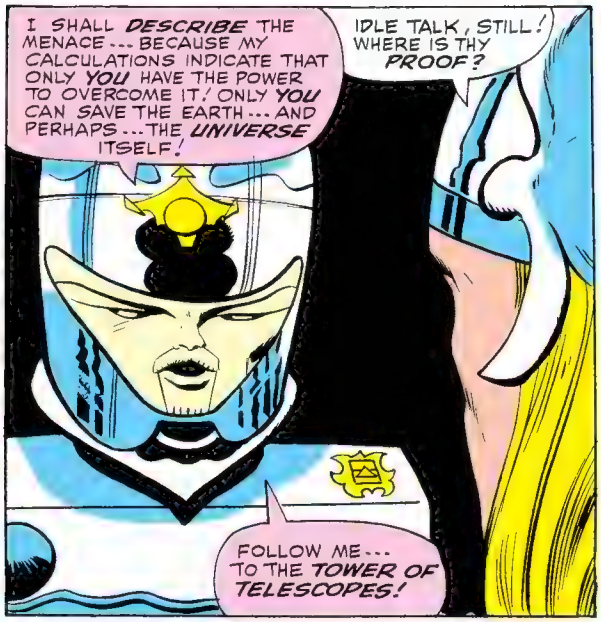

AS EASILY AS I SHATTER YON MACHINE BEFORE ME---JUST SO EASILY SHALL I DESTROY THINE INFERNAL SPACE LOCK!
THRAK!

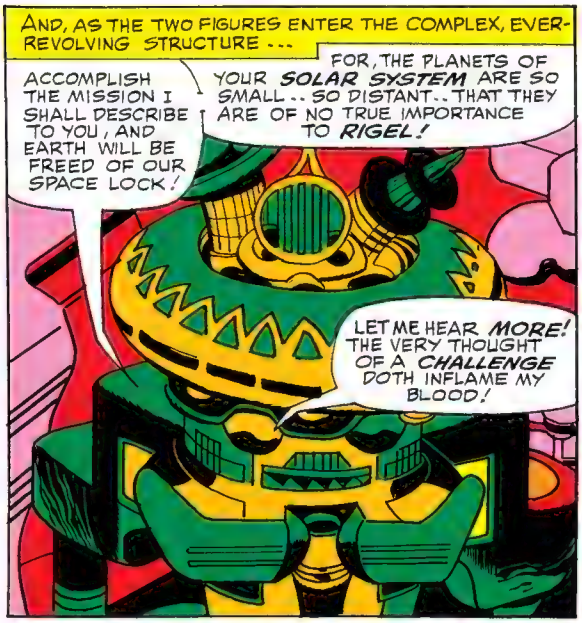

TO ME, FAITHFUL HAMMER! THY MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS NOW BEFORE US!

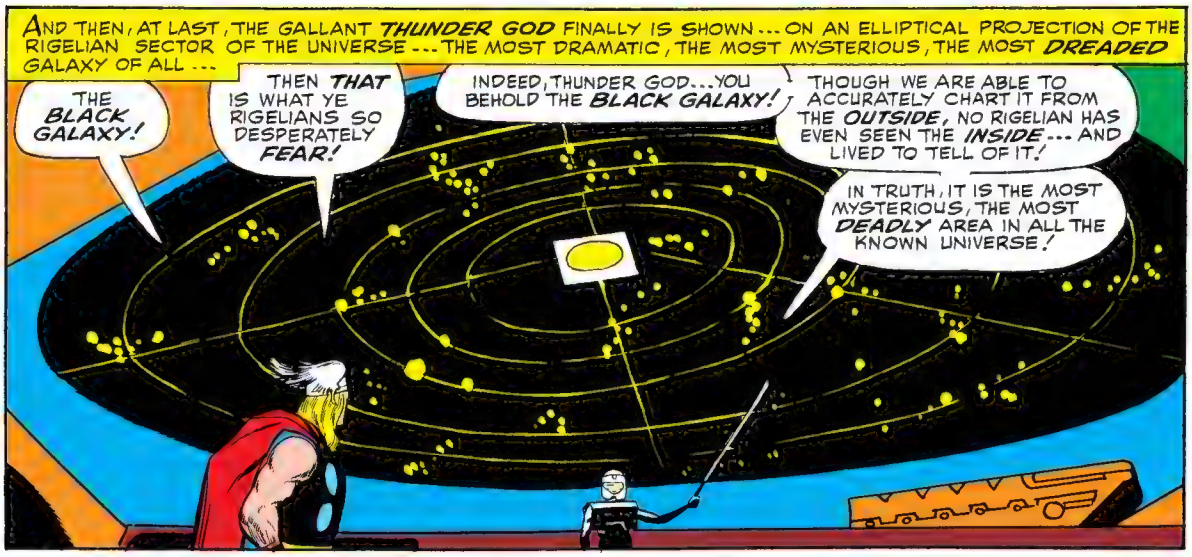
AND NOW--- IN THE NAME OF EARTH--- I STRIKE--!
HOLD!! THROW NOT THAT HAMMER!!
WHAT?? WHO NOW DARES RAISE VOICE AGAINST THOR'S WILL??
STAND THOU FORTH---AND BE COUNTED!

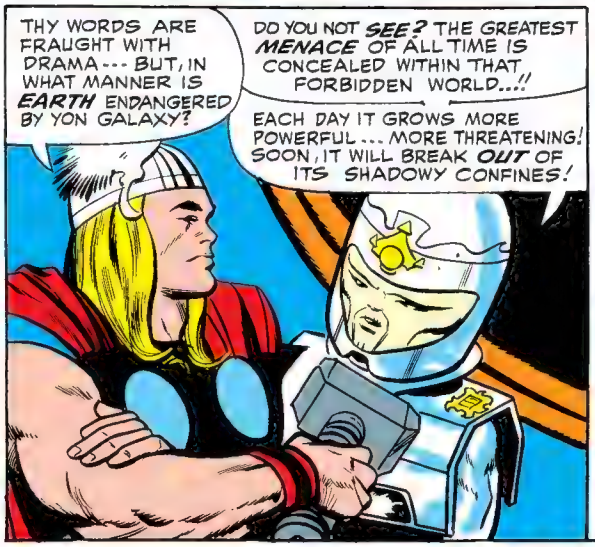

HEAR ME, MIGHTY INTRUDER FROM ANOTHER WORLD!! 'TIS I WHO DARE! I AM GRAND COMMISSIONER OF IMPERIAL RIGEL AND ITS VAST COLONIAL EMPIRE BEYOND THE STARS!
BEFORE YOU HURL YOUR ACCURSED HAMMER---HEED MY WORDS! THE FATE OF A GALAXY NOW HANGS IN THE BALANCE!


DESTROYING OUR SPACE LOCK WILL NOT SAVE THE PEOPLE OF EARTH!
NO PATIENCE HAVE I FOR IDLE TALK! WHAT PROOF CANST THOU OFFER?
THERE IS A FAR GREATER DANGER WITH WHICH THEY ARE SOON DESTINED TO BE CONFRONTED!
YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR PROOF!

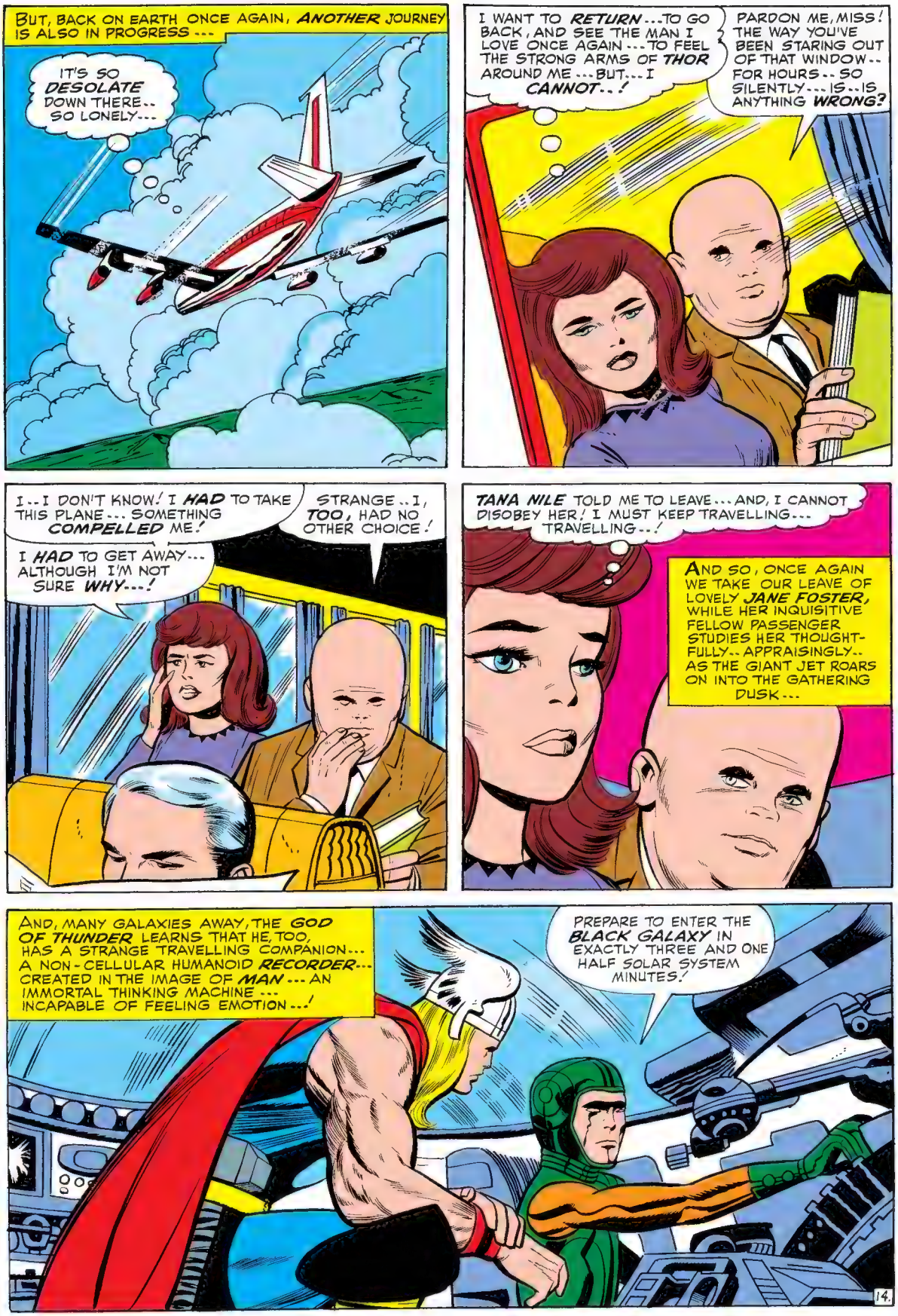

I SHALL DESCRIBE THE MENACE --- BECAUSE MY CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT ONLY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO OVERCOME IT./ ONLY YOU CAN SAVE THE EARTH --- AND PERHAPS --- THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
IDLE TALK, STILL! WHERE IS THY PROOF?
FOLLOW ME --- TO THE TOWER OF TELESCOPES!


AND, AS THE TWO FIGURES ENTER THE COMPLEX, EVER-REVOLVING STRUCTURE ---
ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION I SHALL DESCRIBE TO YOU, AND EARTH WILL BE FREED OF OUR SPACE LOCK!
FOR, THE PLANETS OF YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM ARE SO SMALL -- SO DISTANT -- THAT THEY ARE OF NO TRUE IMPORTANCE TO RIGEL!
LET ME HEAR MORE! THE VERY THOUGHT OF A CHALLENGE DOTH INFLAME MY BLOOD!

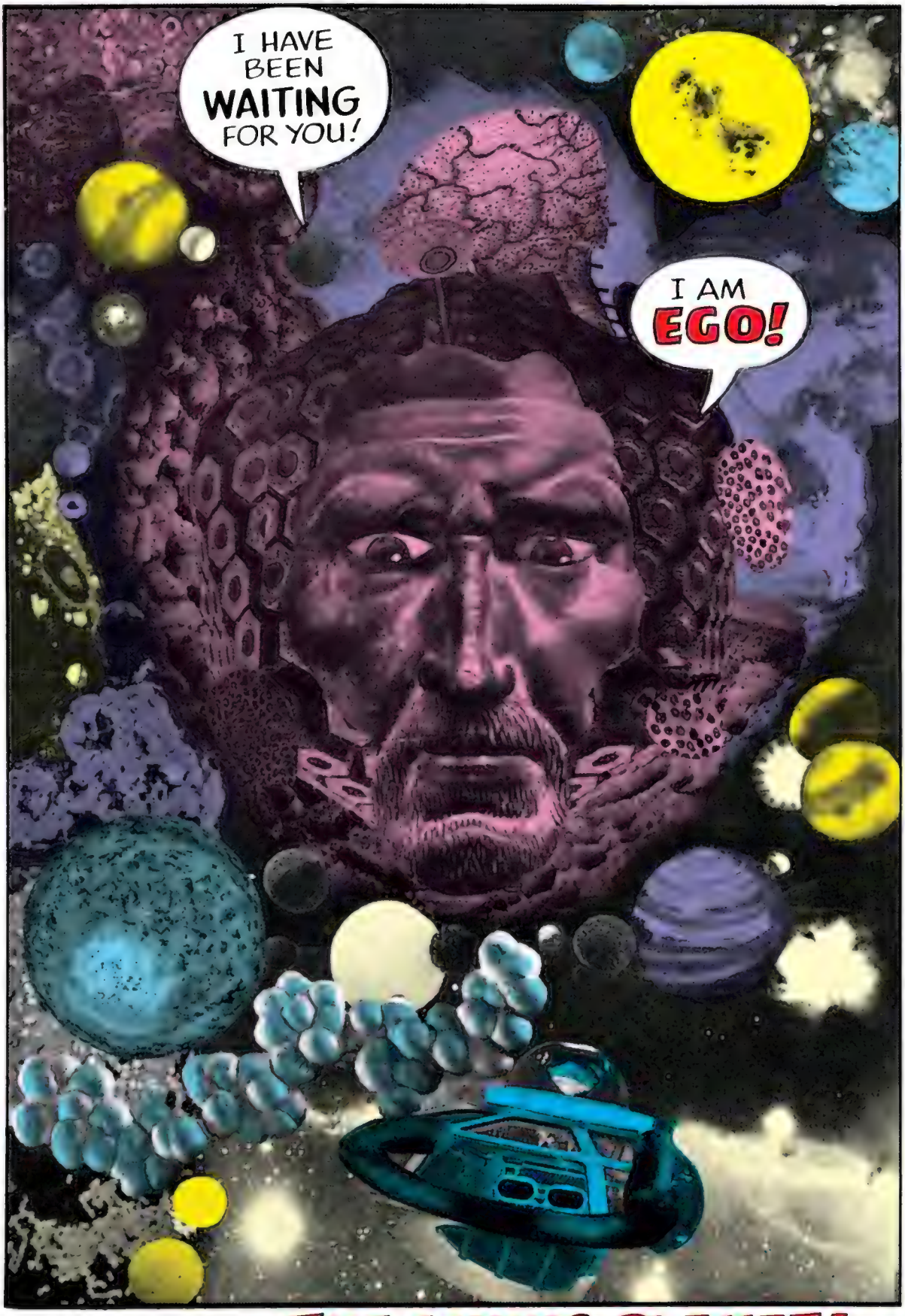

AND THEN, AT LAST, THE GALLANT THUNDER GOD FINALLY IS SHOWN --- ON AN ELLIPTICAL PROJECTION OF THE RIGELIAN SECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE --- THE MOST DRAMATIC, THE MOST MYSTERIOUS, THE MOST DREADED GALAXY OF ALL ---
THE BLACK GALAXY!
THEN THAT IS WHAT YE RIGELIANS SO DESPERATELY FEAR!
INDEED, THUNDER GOD... YOU BEHOLD THE BLACK GALAXY!
THOUGH WE ARE ABLE TO ACCURATELY CHART IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, NO RIGELIAN HAS EVEN SEEN THE INSIDE --- AND LIVED TO TELL OF IT!
IN TRUTH, IT IS THE MOST MYSTERIOUS, THE MOST DEADLY AREA IN ALL THE KNOWN UNIVERSE!


THY WORDS ARE FRAUGHT WITH DRAMA --- BUT, IN WHAT MANNER IS EARTH ENDANGERED BY YON GALAXY?
DO YOU NOT SEE? THE GREATEST MENACE OF ALL TIME IS CONCEALED WITHIN THAT FORBIDDEN WORLD...!!
EACH DAY IT GROWS MORE POWERFUL --- MORE THREATENING! SOON, IT WILL BREAK OUT OF ITS SHADOWY CONFINES!

AND, WHEN IT DOES, NOTHING THAT LIVES --- NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE --- INCLUDING EARTH --- WILL BE SAFE!
ENOUGH TALK! I SHALL ENTER THE BLACK GALAXY!
SO SPEAKS THOR!
YOU SHALL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY --- ACCOMPANIED BY A RECORDER, TO RECORD WHATEVER YOU LEARN --- IN CASE --- YOU NEVER RETURN!

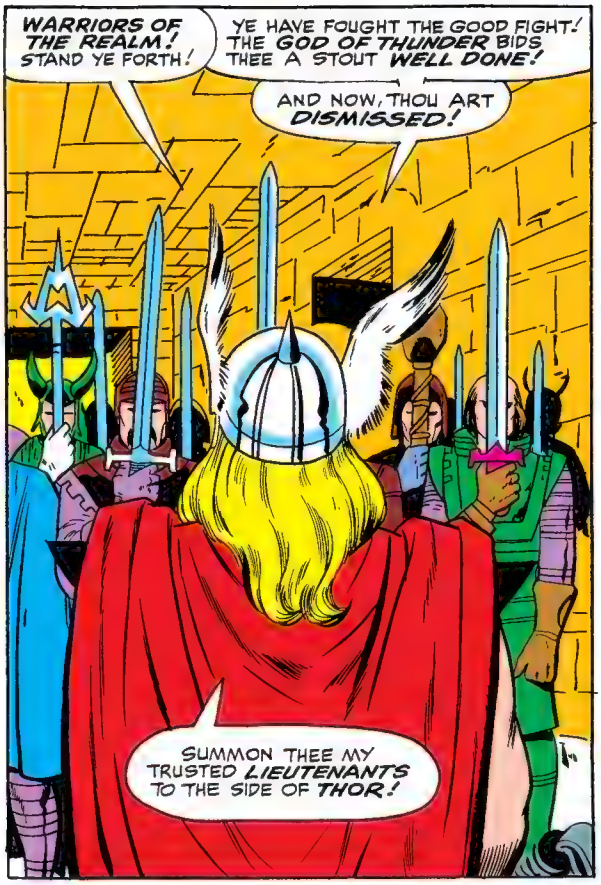

BUT, BACK ON EARTH ONCE AGAIN, ANOTHER JOURNEY IS ALSO IN PROGRESS ---
IT'S SO DESOLATE DOWN THERE... SO LONELY---
I WANT TO RETURN ...TO GO BACK, AND SEE THE MAN I LOVE ONCE AGAIN ---TO FEEL THE STRONG ARMS OF THOR AROUND ME ---BUT---I CANNOT..!
PARDON ME, MISS! THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN STARING OUT OF THAT WINDOW-- FOR HOURS-- SO SILENTLY---IS--IS ANYTHING WRONG?
I--I DON'T KNOW! I HAD TO TAKE THIS PLANE--- SOMETHING COMPELLED ME!
STRANGE..I, TOO, HAD NO OTHER CHOICE!
I HAD TO GET AWAY--- ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHY---!
TANA NILE TOLD ME TO LEAVE---AND, I CANNOT DISOBEY HER! I MUST KEEP TRAVELLING--- TRAVELLING--!
AND SO, ONCE AGAIN WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF LOVELY JANE FOSTER, WHILE HER INQUISITIVE FELLOW PASSENGER STUDIES HER THOUGHT-FULLY--APPRAISINGLY-- AS THE GIANT JET ROARS ON INTO THE GATHERING DUSK---
AND, MANY GALAXIES AWAY, THE GOD OF THUNDER LEARNS THAT HE, TOO, HAS A STRANGE TRAVELLING COMPANION--- A NON-CELLULAR HUMANOID RECORDER--- CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF MAN--- AN IMMORTAL THINKING MACHINE --- INCAPABLE OF FEELING EMOTION---!
PREPARE TO ENTER THE BLACK GALAXY IN EXACTLY THREE AND ONE HALF SOLAR SYSTEM MINUTES!

ALREADY THE STYGIAN DARKNESS LOOMS AHEAD --- BLOTTING OUT THE COMFORTING GLOW OF A THOUSAND STARS--!
MY MEMORY BANKS INFORM ME THAT WE ARE THE FIRST BEINGS TO ENTER THE BLACK GALAXY WITHOUT BEING ATTACKED BY BLAST RAYS!
PERHAPS THOSE WHO DWELL WITHIN ARE AWARE THAT WE ARE NOT COLONIZERS!
WE HAVE LEFT THE KNOWN UNIVERSE BEHIND!! WE ARE COMPLETELY WITHIN THE DARKNESS-SHROUDED BLACK GALAXY! WE MUST NOT RELAX OUR VIGILANCE FOR AN INSTANT!
I AM EVER VIGILANT! I HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO REQUIRE NO REST--NO SLEEP!
LOOK! STRANGE, UNSTABLE, WRITHING SHAPES --- SOME AS LARGE AS FIERY STARS... STREAKING THROUGH THE DARKNESS --- ACROSS THE VAST, ENDLESS IMMENSITY--
I COMPUTE THAT WE ARE WITHIN AN INCREDIBLE UNIVERSE, COMPOSED OF LIVING, BIOLOGICAL MATTER!
NO!! IT IS NOT A UNIVERSE! IT IS FAR MORE FANTASTIC! IT IS ACTUALLY A BIO-VERSE!
A BIO-VERSE?!!
BUT, BEFORE THE HUMANOID HAS A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN ---
OUT THERE! THAT IS THE OBJECTIVE WE SEEK --- THE MENACE WHICH MAKES EVEN COLONIZERS TREMBLE--!
15.




NEXT ISSUE: THE LIVING PLANET!

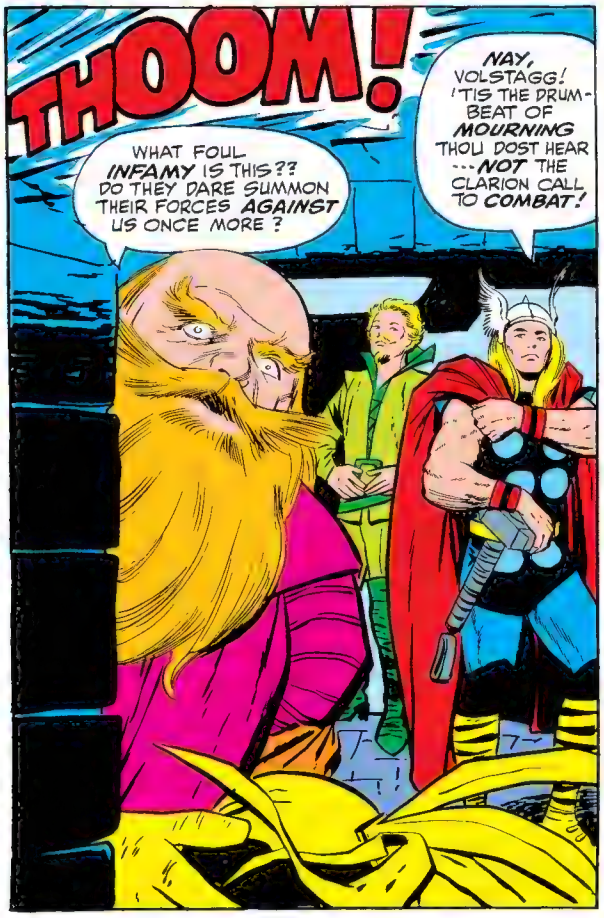
TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
"THE DARK HORSE OF DEATH!"
NOW THAT WE HAVE DEFEATED THE HORDES OF HAROKIN, IT IS TIME FOR US TO REST, WARRIORS OF ASGARD!
EVEN NOW, THE BARBARIAN CHIEFTAIN LIES A'BED, NURSING HIS BATTLE WOUNDS!
'TWAS A ZESTFUL SKIRMISH! A PITY IT MUST NEEDS COME TO SO UNTIMELY AN END!
REST? THAT IS FOR LESSER BEINGS! THE VIGILANT VOLSTAGG SHALL REMAIN EVER ALERT!
HAIL TO ASGARD! MAY ITS GLORY ENDURE FORE'ER!
I HEREBY DECLARE THE LAND OF MUSPELHEIM LIBERATED! THUS SPEAKS THOR, SON OF IMPERIAL ODIN!
SCRIPT WRITING: STAN LEE
PICTURE DRAWING: JACK KIRBY
PANEL INKING: VINCE COLLETTA
WORD LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
ARMOR POLISHING: IRVING FORBUSH


WARRIORS OF THE REALM! STAND YE FORTH!
YE HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT! THE GOD OF THUNDER BIDS THEE A STOUT WELL DONE!
AND NOW, THOU ART DISMISSED!
SUMMON THEE MY TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS TO THE SIDE OF THOR!

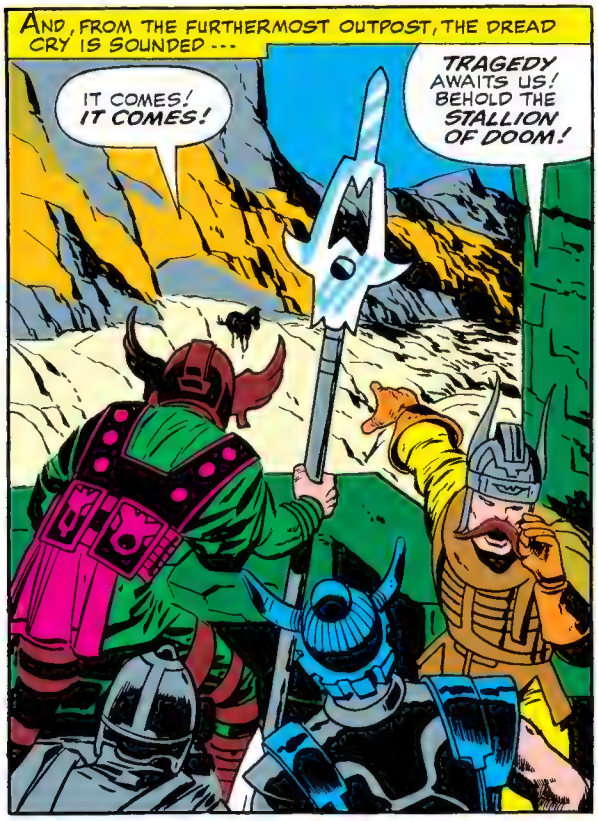
THEN, AS VOLSTAGG THE VAINGLORIOUS, HOGUN THE GRIM, AND FANDRAL THE DASHING REPORT TO THEIR VALIANT WARLORD, THE IMMORTAL WARRIORS PREPARE TO ATTEND THEIR BATTLE WOUNDS AND REFRESH THEMSELVES AT THE WATERS OF THE BATH...
DIDST THOU SEE HOW BRAVE MEN TREMBLED WHEN THEY BEHELD THE FIERCE VISAGE OF THE VALOROUS VOLSTAGG!
TREMBLED INDEED! METHINKS THEY DID BUT ROAR WITH LAUGHTER AT THY GIRTH!
IT MATTERS NOT... SO LONG AS THE VICTORY BE OURS!
TRULY, HOGUN, THOUGH THOU BE A MASTER IN BATTLE, THOU ART BUT A FLEDGLING IN MATTERS OF HUMOR!

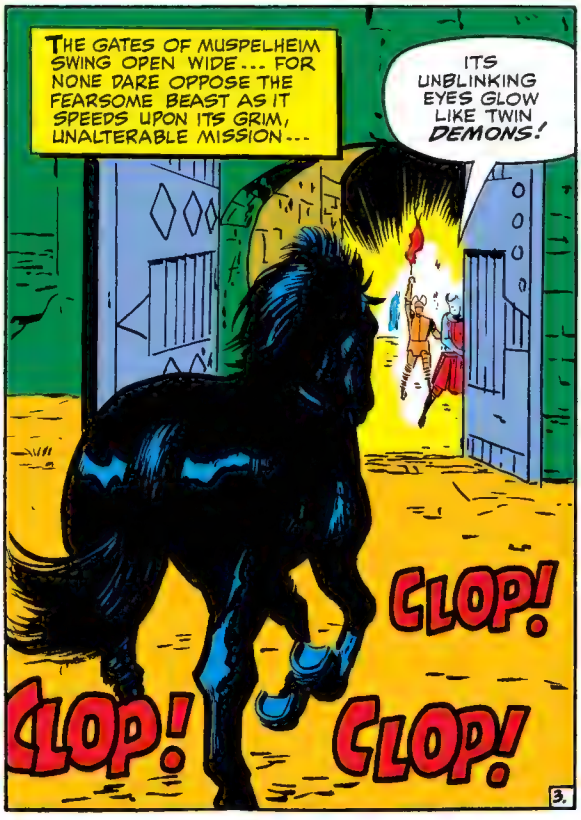
HUMOR? HOGUN THE GRIM HAS NO TIME FOR SUCH SENSELESS PRATTLE!
AY, HOGUN AND VOLSTAGG ARE OF ONE MIND! WE LEAVE THE MERRYMAKING TO OTHERS WHILST WE LIVE FOR BATTLE!
WOULD THAT THE GURGLING WATERS COULD DROWN THE BRAYING SOUND OF VOLSTAGG'S ETERNAL BOASTING!

BUT, A SHORT TIME LATER, AS THE MATCHLESS WARRIORS TAKE THEIR WELL-EARNED REST, THE SLOW, MOURNFUL BEAT OF A MUFFLED DRUM ISSUES FORTH FROM THE DEFEATED BARBARIANS...
THOOM!
THOOM!
THOOM!
2.


THOOM!
WHAT FOUL INFAMY IS THIS?? DO THEY DARE SUMMON THEIR FORCES AGAINST US ONCE MORE?
NAY, VOLSTAGG! 'TIS THE DRUM-BEAT OF MOURNING THOU DOST HEAR ---NOT THE CLARION CALL TO COMBAT!

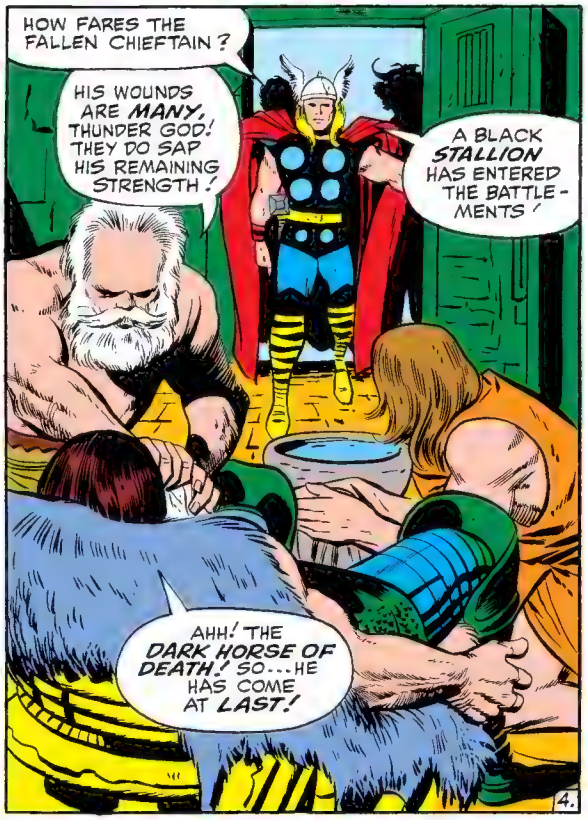
WELL DO I KNOW THAT OMINOUS DRUMBEAT!
IT SUMMONS THE GREAT BLACK STALLION OF DOOM!
IT MEANS THE DEATH OF A MIGHTY WARRIOR IS NEAR AT HAND!


AND, FROM THE FURTHERMOST OUTPOST, THE DREAD CRY IS SOUNDED ---
IT COMES! IT COMES!
TRAGEDY AWAITS US! BEHOLD THE STALLION OF DOOM!


THE GATES OF MUSPELHEIM SWING OPEN WIDE --- FOR NONE DARE OPPOSE THE FEARSOME BEAST AS IT SPEEDS UPON ITS GRIM, UNALTERABLE MISSION ---
ITS UNBLINKING EYES GLOW LIKE TWIN DEMONS!
CLOP!
CLOP!
CLOP!
3.

THE FEARFUL FLEE BEFORE THE MIGHTY EBONY STALLION---WHILE THOSE OF STOUTER HEART STAND FAST! YET, EACH MAN KNOWS THAT THE BEAST WILL STOP BEFORE ONE WARRIOR---THE ONE WHO IS FATED TO DIE!
HE HATH PASSED ME BY! THE GODS BE PRAISED!
I MUST FLEE! I CANNOT PEER INTO THOSE BLAZING EYES!
FLIGHT IS USELESS! WHAT IS TO BE---IS TO BE!

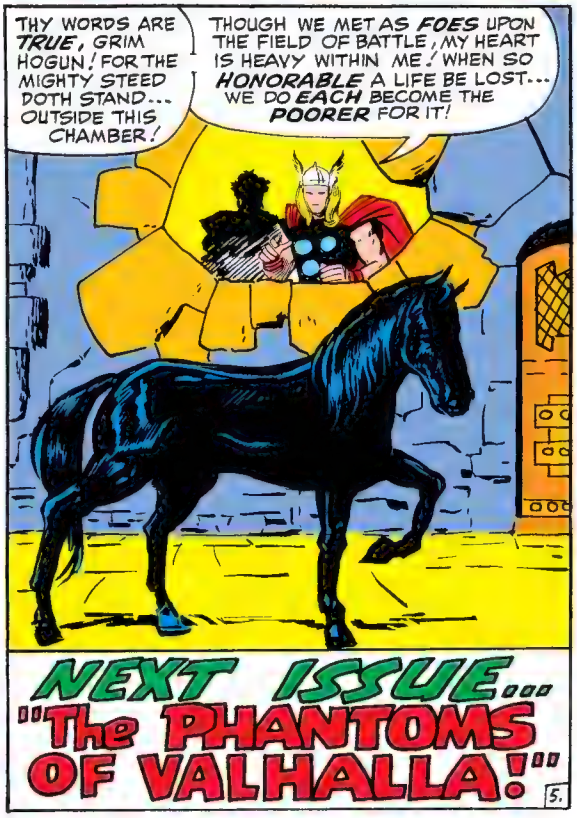
LET US REPAIR TO THE CHAMBER OF HAROKIN! HIS BARBARIANS ARE ON THE VERGE OF PANIC!
AY! A WORD FROM THEIR CHIEF-TAIN MAY QUIET THEIR FEARS!
FEAR? SUCH A WORD IS TRULY A STRANGER TO THE LION-HEARTED VOLSTAGG!
THEN WHY DID THE DRUM-BEATS CAUSE THEE TO TREMBLE?
TUSH, HOGUN! I WAS BUT CHILLED BY THE COOL NORTH WIND!
IN JULY, ENORMOUS ONE?
THERE, AHEAD OF US...THERE HAROKIN IS BEDDED!


HOW FARES THE FALLEN CHIEFTAIN?
HIS WOUNDS ARE MANY, THUNDER GOD! THEY DO SAP HIS REMAINING STRENGTH!
A BLACK STALLION HAS ENTERED THE BATTLE-MENTS!
AHH! THE DARK HORSE OF DEATH! SO...HE HAS COME AT LAST!

THOUGH WE JOUSTED WITH GREAT VIGOR, I DID NOT THINK I HAD INJURED THEE THUS SEVERELY!
'TWAS NOT THY DOING ALONE, SON OF ODIN! I HAVE WAGED MANY BATTLES--- IN MANY LANDS--- AND WITH EACH, A NEW WOUND DID I SUSTAIN!
I, WHO HAVE LIVED FOR WAR--- WHO HAVE SAVORED THE NECTAR OF CONQUEST-- MUST NOW PAY THE FINAL PRICE!
BUT I SHALL ACQUIT MYSELF AS BEFITS A BARBARIAN BORN!

THY PROWESS IN BATTLE IS PROCLAIMED FAR AND WIDE! THOU SHALT LIVE TO FIGHT AGAIN--- THOUGH NOT AGAINST THE FORCES OF ASGARD!
THOUGH THOU BE GOD OF THUNDER--- IN THIS MATTER, MY WISDOM EXCEEDS THINE OWN!
DIDST THOU NOT HEAR THE RUMBLE OF DRUMS? DIDST THOU NOT SEE THE DARK HORSE OF DOOM?
VERILY, HAROKIN HATH FOUGHT HIS FINAL BATTLE!

BEHOLD THE FACE OF THE BARBARIAN'S HEALER, THUNDER GOD! HAROKIN DOTH SPEAK THE TRUTH! EVEN HE DOTH KNOW THE END IS NEAR!
'TIS FOR HAROKIN THE STALLION HATH COME! AND 'TIS THE WAY HE WOULD TRULY WISH TO DEPART!


THY WORDS ARE TRUE, GRIM HOGUN! FOR THE MIGHTY STEED DOTH STAND--- OUTSIDE THIS CHAMBER!
THOUGH WE MET AS FOES UPON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, MY HEART IS HEAVY WITHIN ME! WHEN SO HONORABLE A LIFE BE LOST--- WE DO EACH BECOME THE POORER FOR IT!
NEXT ISSUE...
"The PHANTOMS OF VALHALLA!"

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
133 OCT
BEHOLD..
"THE LIVING PLANET!"

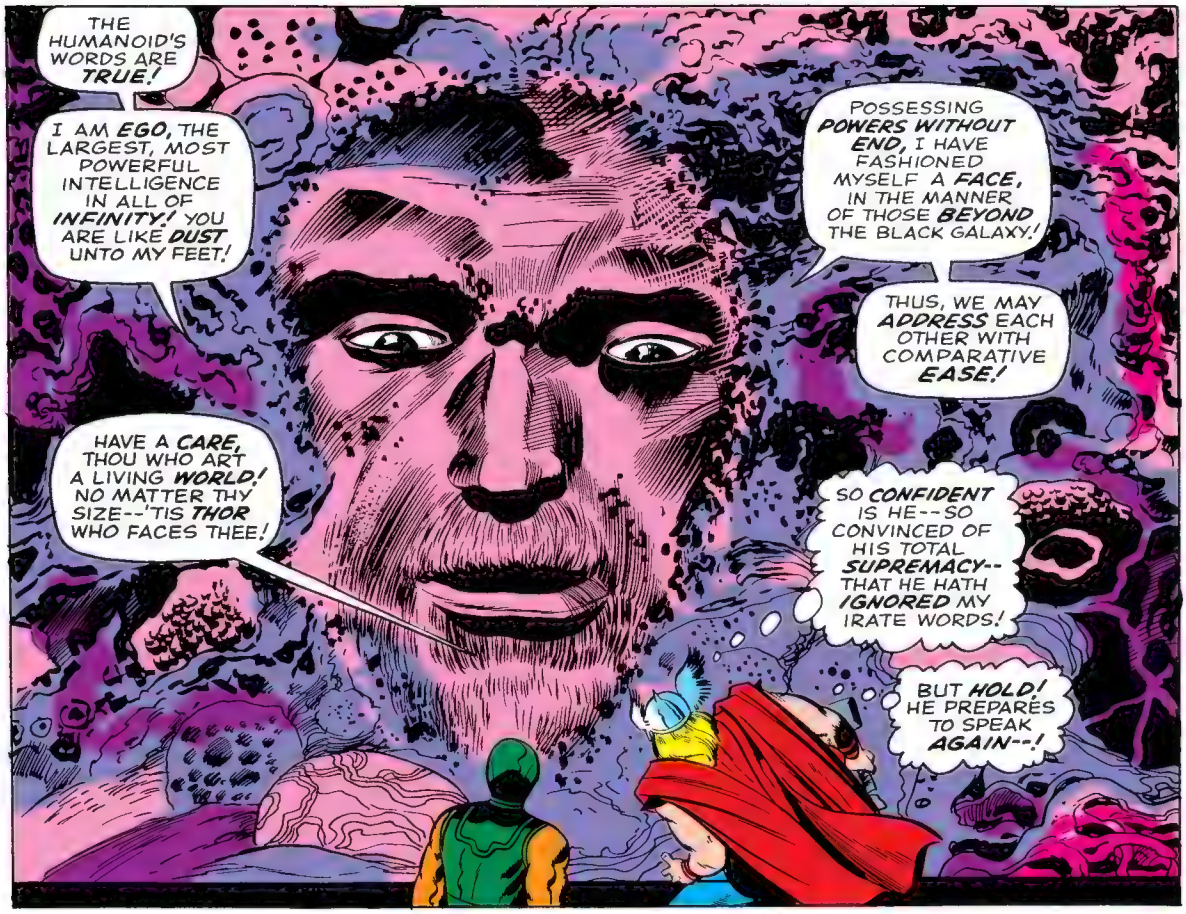
THE MIGHTY THOR!
"BEHOLD... THE LIVING PLANET!"
CAN IT BE TRUE? WE GAZED AT A PLANET--AND SAW IT BECOME A LIVING FACE!! WE HEARD IT SPEAK TO US!!
I CANNOT TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH OF A MATTER! I AM BUT A RECORDER--FASHIONED IN HUMAN FORM!
I MUST NOW ACTIVATE MY DERMA-CIRCUITS FOR MAXIMUM AND CONTINUOUS OPERATION! MY ENTIRE BODY--SKIN, FEATURES, LIMBS, AND ELECTRONIC BRAIN WILL ACCURATELY RECORD WHATSOEVER TRANSPIRES--
ACCOMPANIED BY A HUMANOID RECORDER, THE MIGHTY THOR LEAVES THE WORLD OF THE COLONIZERS, TO ENTER THE DREADED, TOTALLY MYSTERIOUS BLACK GALAXY, FROM WHENCE NO LIVING BEING HAS EVER RETURNED!
AND NOW, PREPARE FOR WONDERMENT BEYOND MEASURE ON THE INCREDIBLE PAGES THAT FOLLOW--
STAR-STUDDED SCRIPT: STAN LEE
PLANET-POUNDING PENCILLING: JACK KIRBY
REAL RIGELLIAN RENDERING: VINCE COLLETTA
LOTS OF LITTLE LETTERING: ARTIE SIMEK
POSSIBLY THE MOST DARINGLY IMAGINATIVE SAGA YOU HAVE EVER MARVELLED AT!!
1

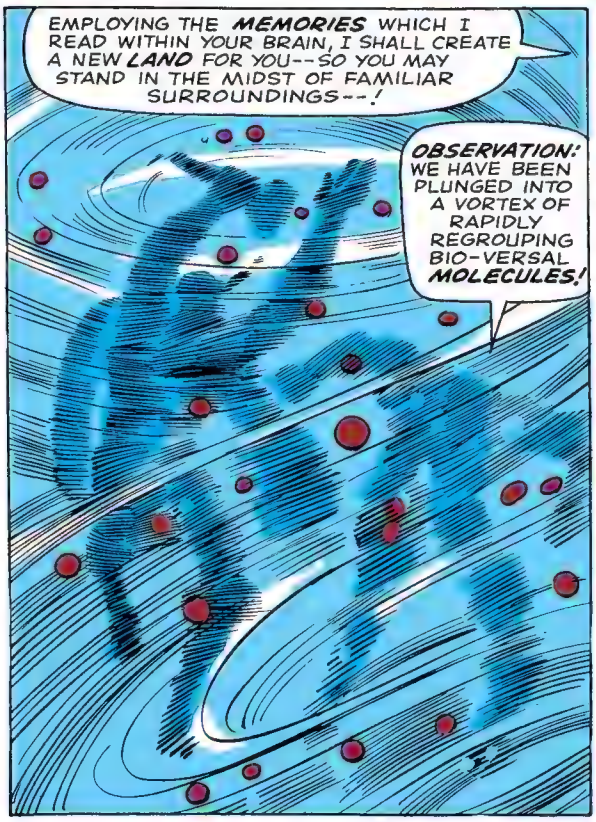
STEPPING FROM THEIR RIGELLIAN SPACE SHIP, THE **GOD OF THUNDER** AND HIS EMOTIONLESS COMPANION FIND THEMSELVES IN A GALAXY TOTALLY BEYOND OUR MEAGER POWERS OF DESCRIPTION! IT IS TRULY A WORLD WHICH IS **NOT** A WORLD--EXISTING IN A TIME WHICH IS **MORE** THAN TIME...!

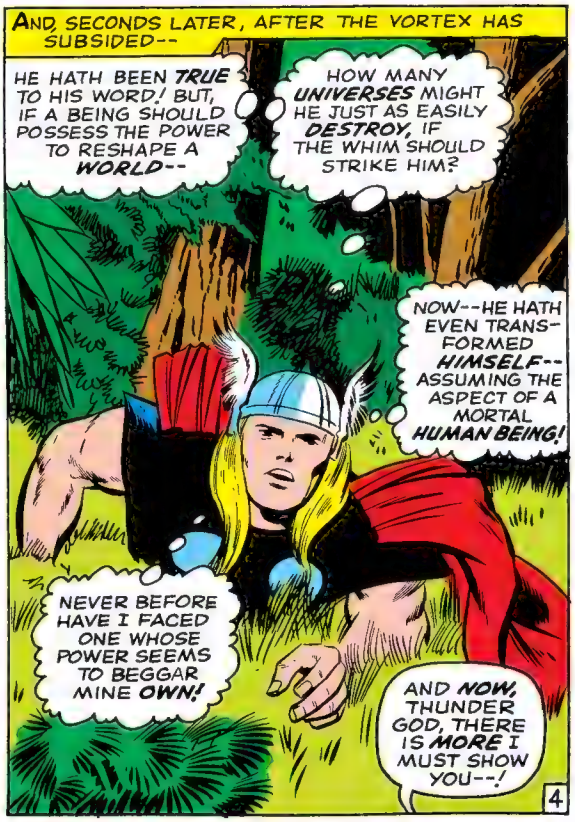
MY VERY SENSES **REEL** BEFORE THE SIGHT WHICH DOTH CONFRONT US! OF ALL THE **GALAXIES**, KNOWN TO MAN OR IMMORTAL, **THIS** IS SURELY THE MOST **INCOMPREHENSIBLE!**

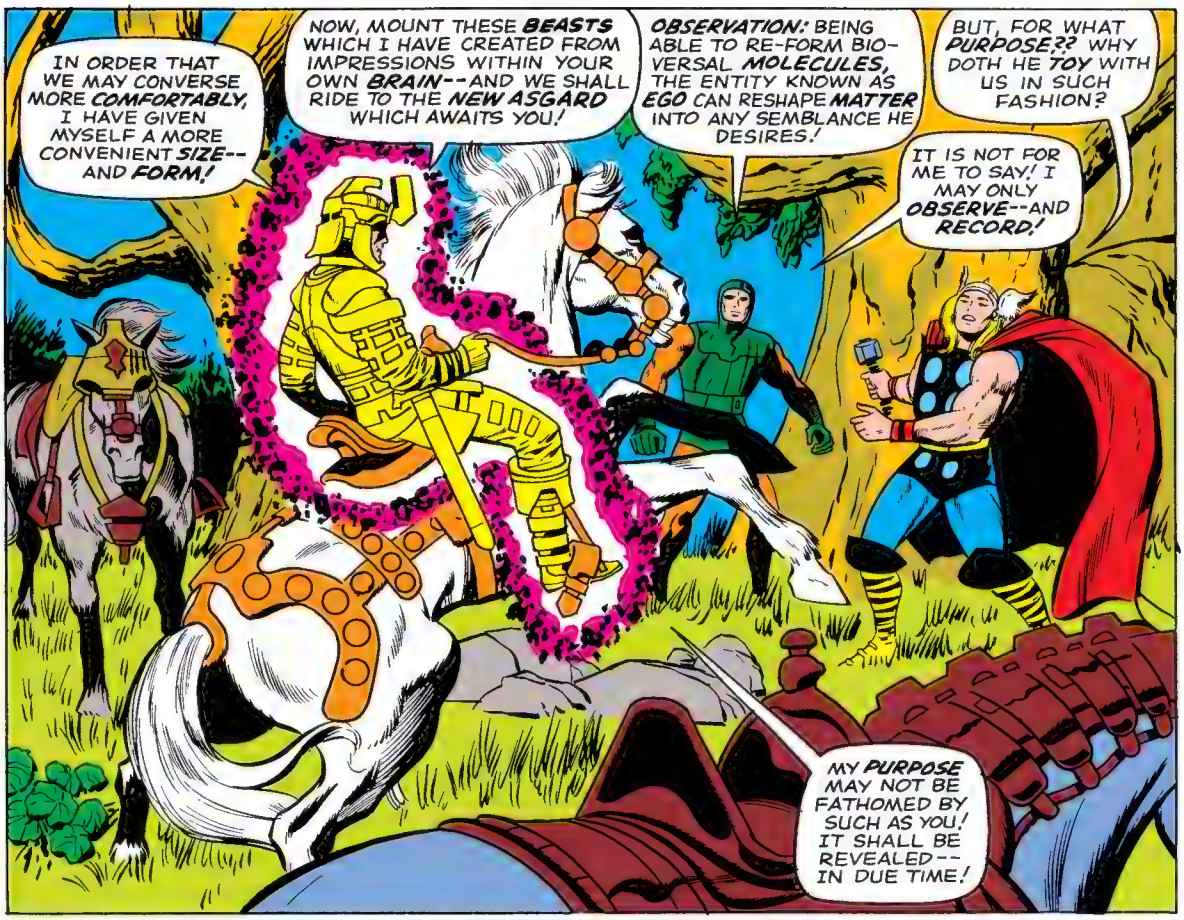
WE ARE IN THE CENTER OF THE **BLACK GALAXY!** MY SENSITIZERS DETECT THE PRESENCE OF--**EGO!** **CLASSIFICATION:** MULTIPLE VIRUS LIVING MATTER! **SIZE: PLANETARY** RANGE! **LOCATION:** EXISTING **NOT** IN PHYSICAL UNIVERSE, BUT IN FLUID **BIO-VERSE!**

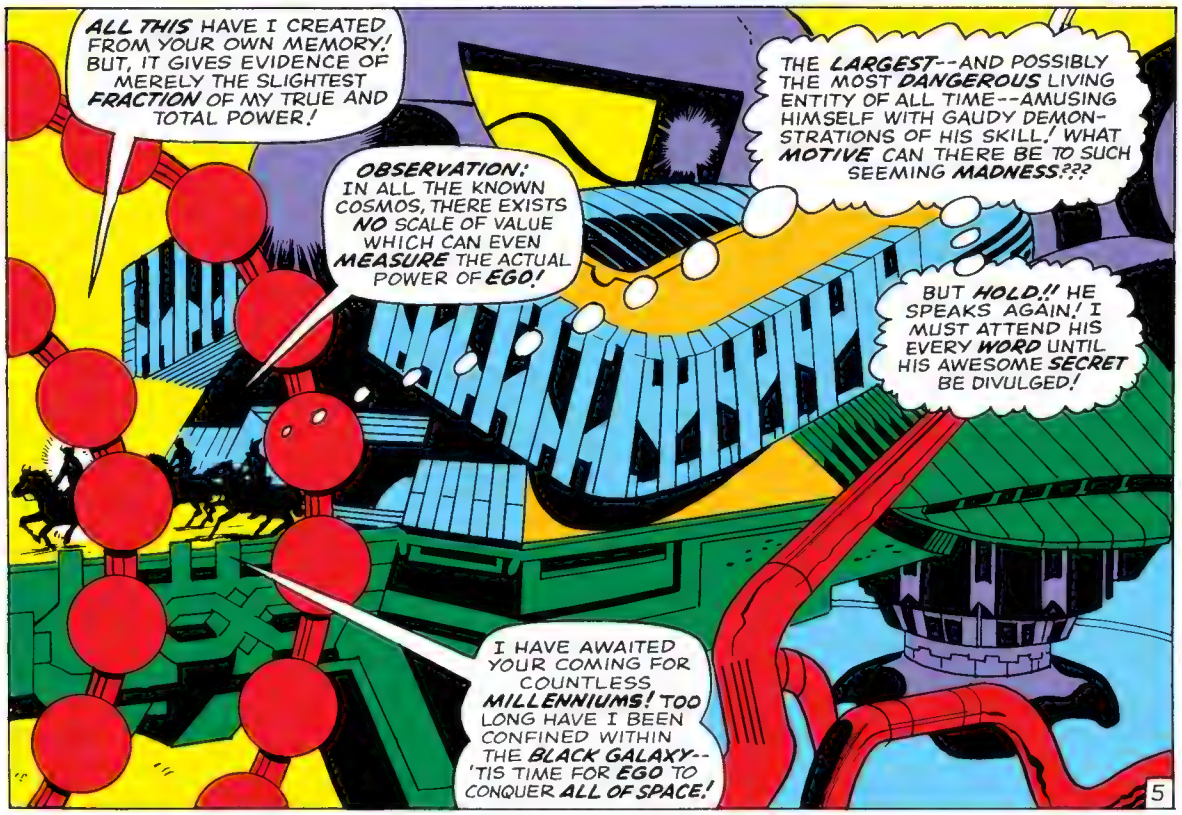
**CONCLUSION:** THE PLANET UPON WHICH WE STAND IS NOT MERELY A RECEPTACLE UPON WHICH LIFE DWELLS--IT IS TRULY **LIFE ITSELF!** HERE, WITHIN THE ONLY KNOWN **BIO-VERSE** IN ALL OF CREATION, WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF **EGO**, THE **LIVING PLANET!!**

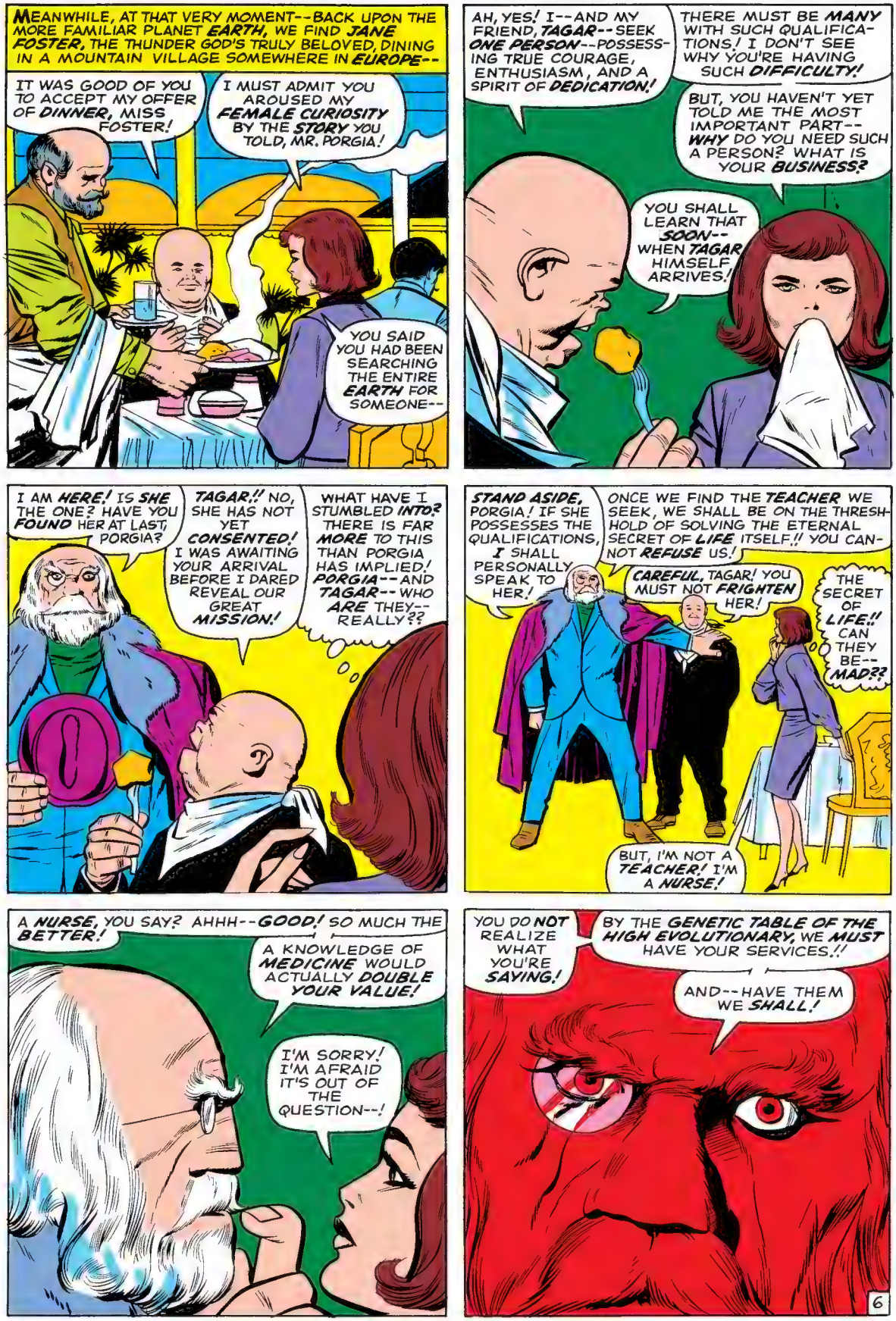

THE HUMANOID'S WORDS ARE TRUE!
I AM EGO, THE LARGEST, MOST POWERFUL INTELLIGENCE IN ALL OF INFINITY! YOU ARE LIKE DUST UNTO MY FEET!
POSSESSING POWERS WITHOUT END, I HAVE FASHIONED MYSELF A FACE, IN THE MANNER OF THOSE BEYOND THE BLACK GALAXY!
THUS, WE MAY ADDRESS EACH OTHER WITH COMPARATIVE EASE!
HAVE A CARE, THOU WHO ART A LIVING WORLD! NO MATTER THY SIZE--'TIS THOR WHO FACES THEE!
SO CONFIDENT IS HE--SO CONVINCED OF HIS TOTAL SUPREMACY--THAT HE HATH IGNORED MY IRATE WORDS!
BUT HOLD! HE PREPARES TO SPEAK AGAIN--!

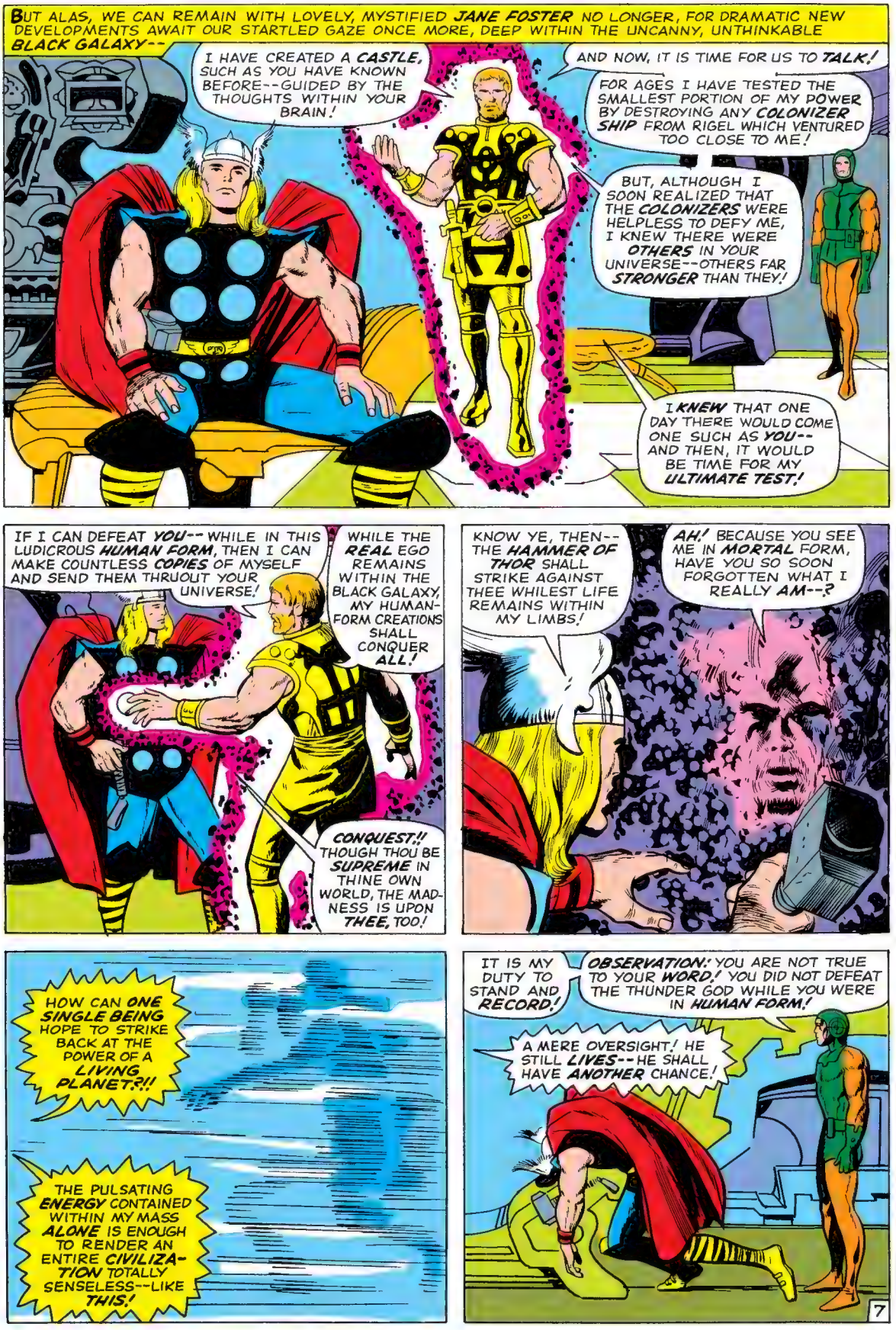

EMPLOYING THE MEMORIES WHICH I READ WITHIN YOUR BRAIN, I SHALL CREATE A NEW LAND FOR YOU--SO YOU MAY STAND IN THE MIDST OF FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS--!
OBSERVATION: WE HAVE BEEN PLUNGED INTO A VORTEX OF RAPIDLY REGROUPING BIO-VERSAL MOLECULES!

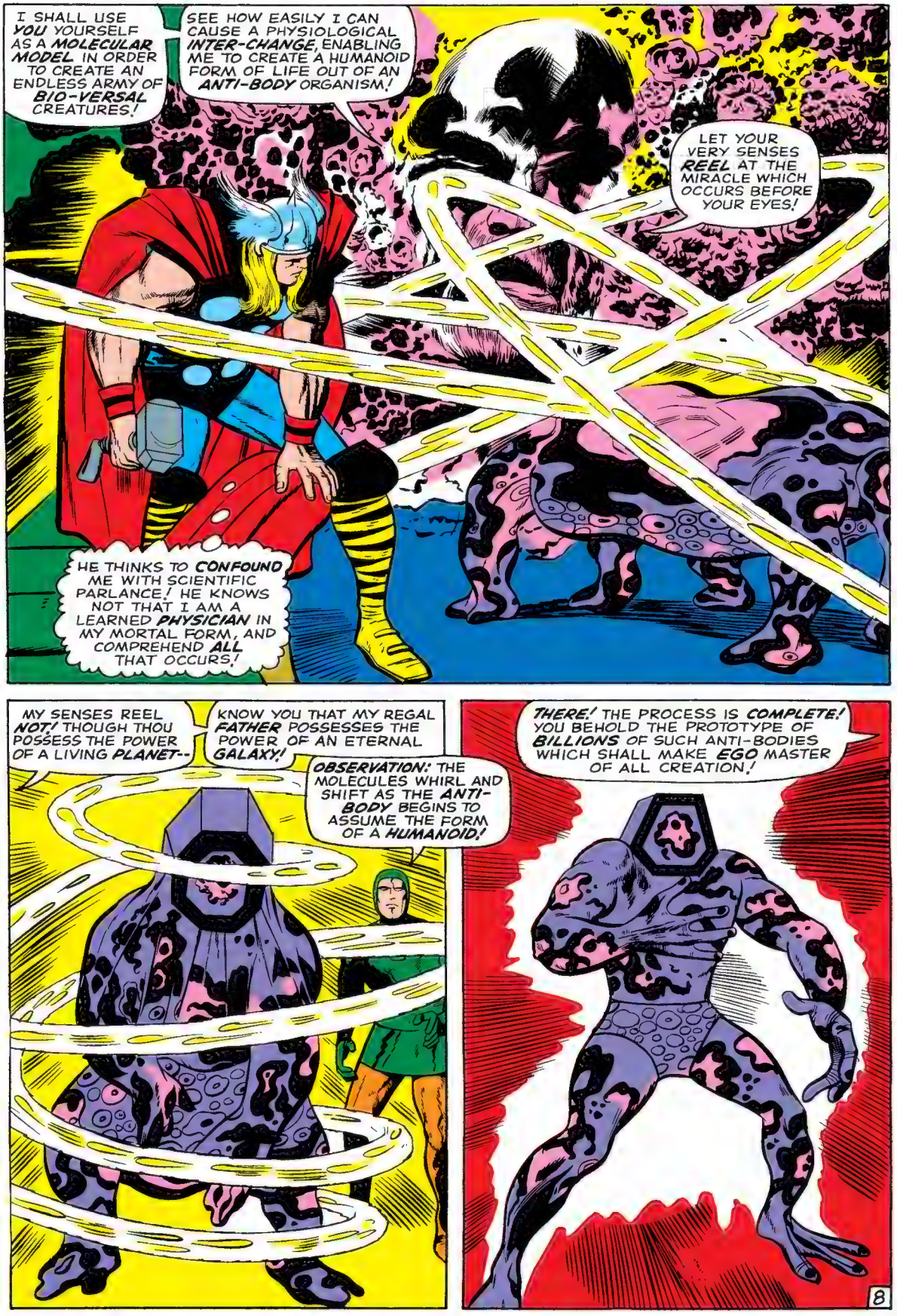

AND, SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE VORTEX HAS SUBSIDED--
HE HATH BEEN TRUE TO HIS WORD! BUT, IF A BEING SHOULD POSSESS THE POWER TO RESHAPE A WORLD--
HOW MANY UNIVERSES MIGHT HE JUST AS EASILY DESTROY, IF THE WHIM SHOULD STRIKE HIM?
NOW--HE HATH EVEN TRANSFORMED HIMSELF--ASSUMING THE ASPECT OF A MORTAL HUMAN BEING!
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FACED ONE WHOSE POWER SEEMS TO BEGGAR MINE OWN!
AND NOW, THUNDER GOD, THERE IS MORE I MUST SHOW YOU--!
4


IN ORDER THAT WE MAY CONVERSE MORE COMFORTABLY, I HAVE GIVEN MYSELF A MORE CONVENIENT SIZE-- AND FORM!
NOW, MOUNT THESE BEASTS WHICH I HAVE CREATED FROM IMPRESSIONS WITHIN YOUR OWN BRAIN--AND WE SHALL RIDE TO THE NEW ASGARD WHICH AWAITS YOU!
OBSERVATION: BEING ABLE TO RE-FORM BIO-VERSAL MOLECULES, THE ENTITY KNOWN AS EGO CAN RESHAPE MATTER INTO ANY SEMBLANCE HE DESIRES!
BUT, FOR WHAT PURPOSE?? WHY DOTH HE TOY WITH US IN SUCH FASHION?
IT IS NOT FOR ME TO SAY! I MAY ONLY OBSERVE--AND RECORD!
MY PURPOSE MAY NOT BE FATHOMED BY SUCH AS YOU! IT SHALL BE REVEALED-- IN DUE TIME!

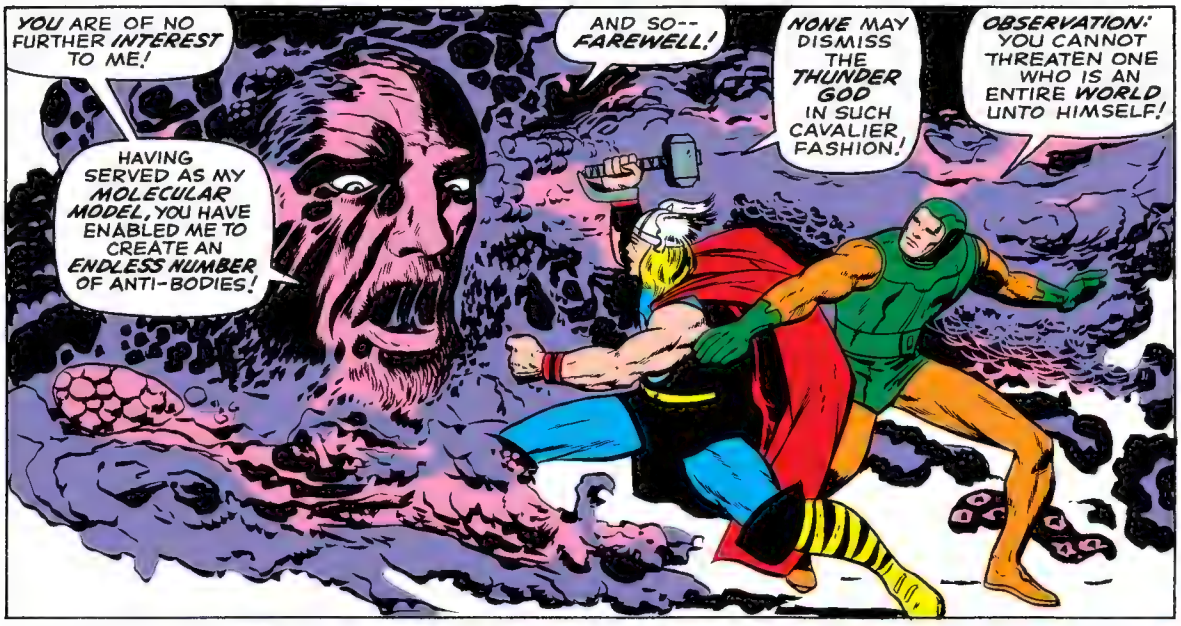

ALL THIS HAVE I CREATED FROM YOUR OWN MEMORY! BUT, IT GIVES EVIDENCE OF MERELY THE SLIGHTEST FRACTION OF MY TRUE AND TOTAL POWER!
OBSERVATION: IN ALL THE KNOWN COSMOS, THERE EXISTS NO SCALE OF VALUE WHICH CAN EVEN MEASURE THE ACTUAL POWER OF EGO!
THE LARGEST--AND POSSIBLY THE MOST DANGEROUS LIVING ENTITY OF ALL TIME--AMUSING HIMSELF WITH GAUDY DEMONSTRATIONS OF HIS SKILL! WHAT MOTIVE CAN THERE BE TO SUCH SEEMING MADNESS???
BUT HOLD!! HE SPEAKS AGAIN! I MUST ATTEND HIS EVERY WORD UNTIL HIS AWESOME SECRET BE DIVULGED!
I HAVE AWAITED YOUR COMING FOR COUNTLESS MILLENNIUMS! TOO LONG HAVE I BEEN CONFINED WITHIN THE BLACK GALAXY-- 'TIS TIME FOR EGO TO CONQUER ALL OF SPACE!

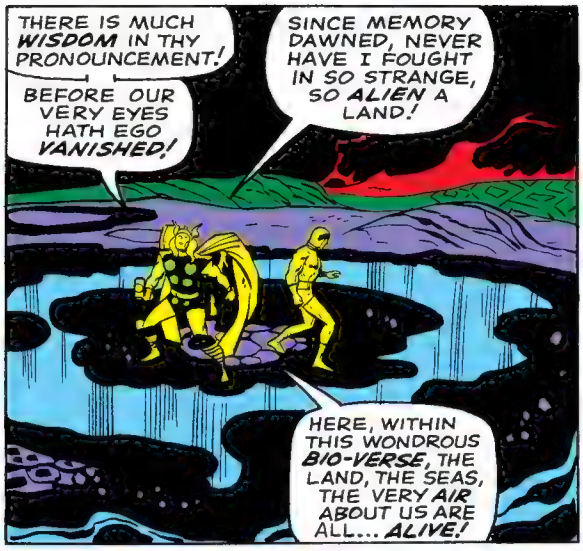

MEANWHILE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT--BACK UPON THE MORE FAMILIAR PLANET EARTH, WE FIND JANE FOSTER, THE THUNDER GOD'S TRULY BELOVED, DINING IN A MOUNTAIN VILLAGE SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE--
IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO ACCEPT MY OFFER OF DINNER, MISS FOSTER!
I MUST ADMIT YOU AROUSED MY FEMALE CURIOSITY BY THE STORY YOU TOLD, MR. PORGIA!
YOU SAID YOU HAD BEEN SEARCHING THE ENTIRE EARTH FOR SOMEONE--
AH, YES! I--AND MY FRIEND, TAGAR--SEEK ONE PERSON--POSSESSING TRUE COURAGE, ENTHUSIASM, AND A SPIRIT OF DEDICATION!
THERE MUST BE MANY WITH SUCH QUALIFICATIONS! I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE HAVING SUCH DIFFICULTY!
BUT, YOU HAVEN'T YET TOLD ME THE MOST IMPORTANT PART--WHY DO YOU NEED SUCH A PERSON? WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS?
YOU SHALL LEARN THAT SOON--WHEN TAGAR HIMSELF ARRIVES!
I AM HERE! IS SHE THE ONE? HAVE YOU FOUND HER AT LAST, PORGIA?
TAGAR!! NO, SHE HAS NOT YET CONSENTED! I WAS AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL BEFORE I DARED REVEAL OUR GREAT MISSION!
WHAT HAVE I STUMBLED INTO? THERE IS FAR MORE TO THIS THAN PORGIA HAS IMPLIED! PORGIA--AND TAGAR--WHO ARE THEY--REALLY??
STAND ASIDE, PORGIA! IF SHE POSSESSES THE QUALIFICATIONS, I SHALL PERSONALLY SPEAK TO HER!
ONCE WE FIND THE TEACHER WE SEEK, WE SHALL BE ON THE THRESHHOLD OF SOLVING THE ETERNAL SECRET OF LIFE ITSELF!! YOU CANNOT REFUSE US!
CAREFUL, TAGAR! YOU MUST NOT FRIGHTEN HER!
THE SECRET OF LIFE!! CAN THEY BE--MAD??
BUT, I'M NOT A TEACHER! I'M A NURSE!
A NURSE, YOU SAY? AHHH--GOOD! SO MUCH THE BETTER!
A KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE WOULD ACTUALLY DOUBLE YOUR VALUE!
I'M SORRY! I'M AFRAID IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION--!
YOU DO NOT REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
BY THE GENETIC TABLE OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, WE MUST HAVE YOUR SERVICES!!
AND--HAVE THEM WE SHALL!

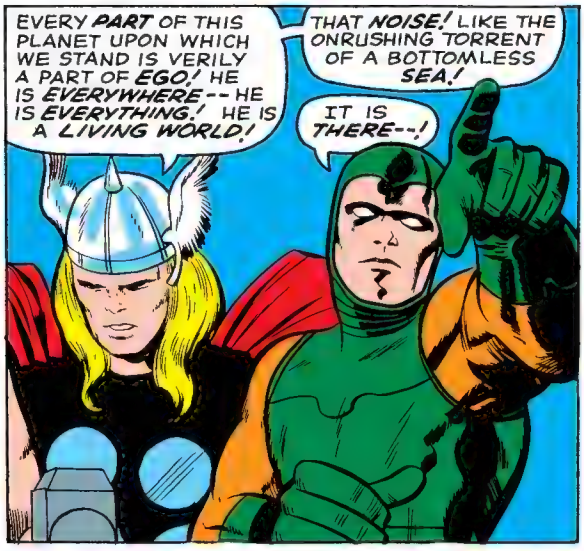

BUT ALAS, WE CAN REMAIN WITH LOVELY, MYSTIFIED JANE FOSTER NO LONGER, FOR DRAMATIC NEW DEVELOPMENTS AWAIT OUR STARTLED GAZE ONCE MORE, DEEP WITHIN THE UNCANNY, UNTHINKABLE BLACK GALAXY--
I HAVE CREATED A CASTLE, SUCH AS YOU HAVE KNOWN BEFORE--GUIDED BY THE THOUGHTS WITHIN YOUR BRAIN!
AND NOW, IT IS TIME FOR US TO TALK!
FOR AGES I HAVE TESTED THE SMALLEST PORTION OF MY POWER BY DESTROYING ANY COLONIZER SHIP FROM RIGEL WHICH VENTURED TOO CLOSE TO ME!
BUT, ALTHOUGH I SOON REALIZED THAT THE COLONIZERS WERE HELPLESS TO DEFY ME, I KNEW THERE WERE OTHERS IN YOUR UNIVERSE--OTHERS FAR STRONGER THAN THEY!
I KNEW THAT ONE DAY THERE WOULD COME ONE SUCH AS YOU-- AND THEN, IT WOULD BE TIME FOR MY ULTIMATE TEST!
IF I CAN DEFEAT YOU-- WHILE IN THIS LUDICROUS HUMAN FORM, THEN I CAN MAKE COUNTLESS COPIES OF MYSELF AND SEND THEM THRUOUT YOUR UNIVERSE!
WHILE THE REAL EGO REMAINS WITHIN THE BLACK GALAXY, MY HUMAN-FORM CREATIONS SHALL CONQUER ALL!
CONQUEST!! THOUGH THOU BE SUPREME IN THINE OWN WORLD, THE MADNESS IS UPON THEE, TOO!
KNOW YE, THEN-- THE HAMMER OF THOR SHALL STRIKE AGAINST THEE WHILEST LIFE REMAINS WITHIN MY LIMBS!
AH! BECAUSE YOU SEE ME IN MORTAL FORM, HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN WHAT I REALLY AM--?
HOW CAN ONE SINGLE BEING HOPE TO STRIKE BACK AT THE POWER OF A LIVING PLANET?!!
THE PULSATING ENERGY CONTAINED WITHIN MY MASS ALONE IS ENOUGH TO RENDER AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION TOTALLY SENSELESS--LIKE THIS!
IT IS MY DUTY TO STAND AND RECORD!
OBSERVATION: YOU ARE NOT TRUE TO YOUR WORD! YOU DID NOT DEFEAT THE THUNDER GOD WHILE YOU WERE IN HUMAN FORM!
A MERE OVERSIGHT! HE STILL LIVES-- HE SHALL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
7

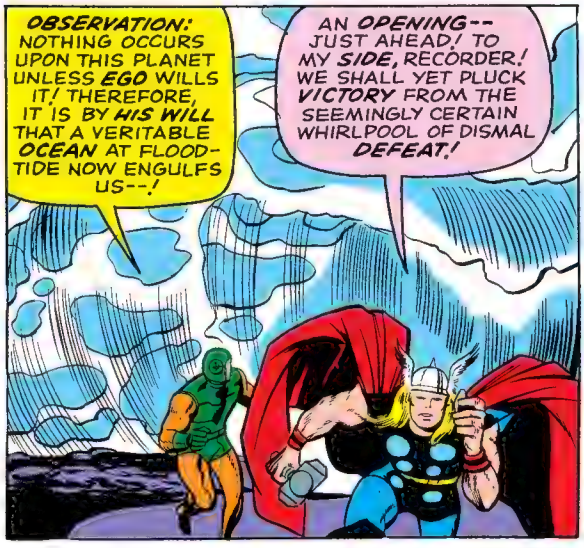

I SHALL USE YOU YOURSELF AS A MOLECULAR MODEL IN ORDER TO CREATE AN ENDLESS ARMY OF BIO-VERSAL CREATURES!
SEE HOW EASILY I CAN CAUSE A PHYSIOLOGICAL INTER-CHANGE, ENABLING ME TO CREATE A HUMANOID FORM OF LIFE OUT OF AN ANTI-BODY ORGANISM!
LET YOUR VERY SENSES REEL AT THE MIRACLE WHICH OCCURS BEFORE YOUR EYES!
HE THINKS TO CONFOUND ME WITH SCIENTIFIC PARLANCE! HE KNOWS NOT THAT I AM A LEARNED PHYSICIAN IN MY MORTAL FORM, AND COMPREHEND ALL THAT OCCURS!
MY SENSES REEL NOT! THOUGH THOU POSSESS THE POWER OF A LIVING PLANET--
KNOW YOU THAT MY REGAL FATHER POSSESSES THE POWER OF AN ETERNAL GALAXY!
OBSERVATION: THE MOLECULES WHIRL AND SHIFT AS THE ANTI-BODY BEGINS TO ASSUME THE FORM OF A HUMANOID!
THERE! THE PROCESS IS COMPLETE! YOU BEHOLD THE PROTOTYPE OF BILLIONS OF SUCH ANTI-BODIES WHICH SHALL MAKE EGO MASTER OF ALL CREATION!

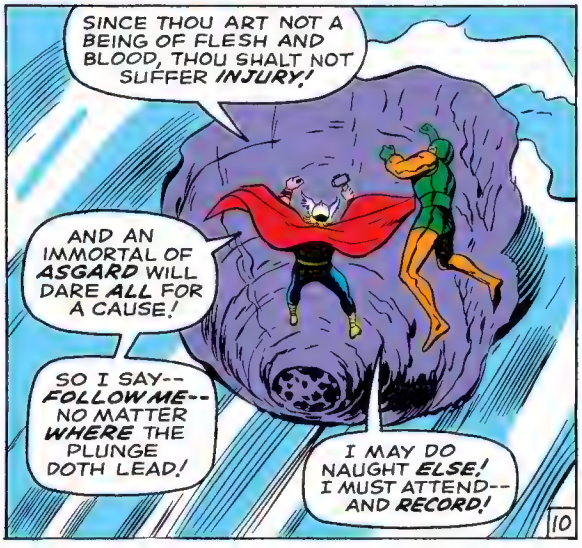
I HAVE RECORDED ALL THAT HAS COME TO PASS!
NOW, I MUST RECHARGE MY POWER CIRCUITS! LET THE HUMANOID AND THE IMMORTAL STAND BACK!
NEVER HAVE EVENTS OF SUCH SCOPE, SUCH IMPORT BEEN PRESERVED FOR FUTURE STUDY!
NEVER HAS A RECORDER WITNESSED WONDERMENT THE EQUAL OF THIS!
WITH SUCH AS THESE, THE ENTITY KNOWN AS EGO INTENDS TO CONQUER A UNIVERSE?
THEN, LET THE GOD OF THUNDER DEMONSTRATE THE FATAL FOLLY OF SUCH ASPIRATIONS!
OBSERVATION: A BATTLE BETWEEN GOD AND BIO-VERSAL ENTITY IS ABOUT TO ENSUE!
NOTHING THAT LIVES-- NO POWER THAT THREATENS INNOCENT MASSES--CAN DEFEAT THE HAMMER OF THOR!
YOU ARE TOO LATE! THE ANTI-BODY HAS VANISHED! EGO CAN CREATE COUNTLESS OTHERS, IN THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT!
OBSERVATION: THOUGH YOU ARE GOD OF THUNDER, YOU CANNOT COMBAT A LIVING PLANET, FOR WHAT EGO SO WILLS--MUST THEN COME TO PASS!
LET THY VOICE BE STILLED! THE SON OF ODIN SHALL EVER BE A STRANGER TO FECKLESS SURRENDER!

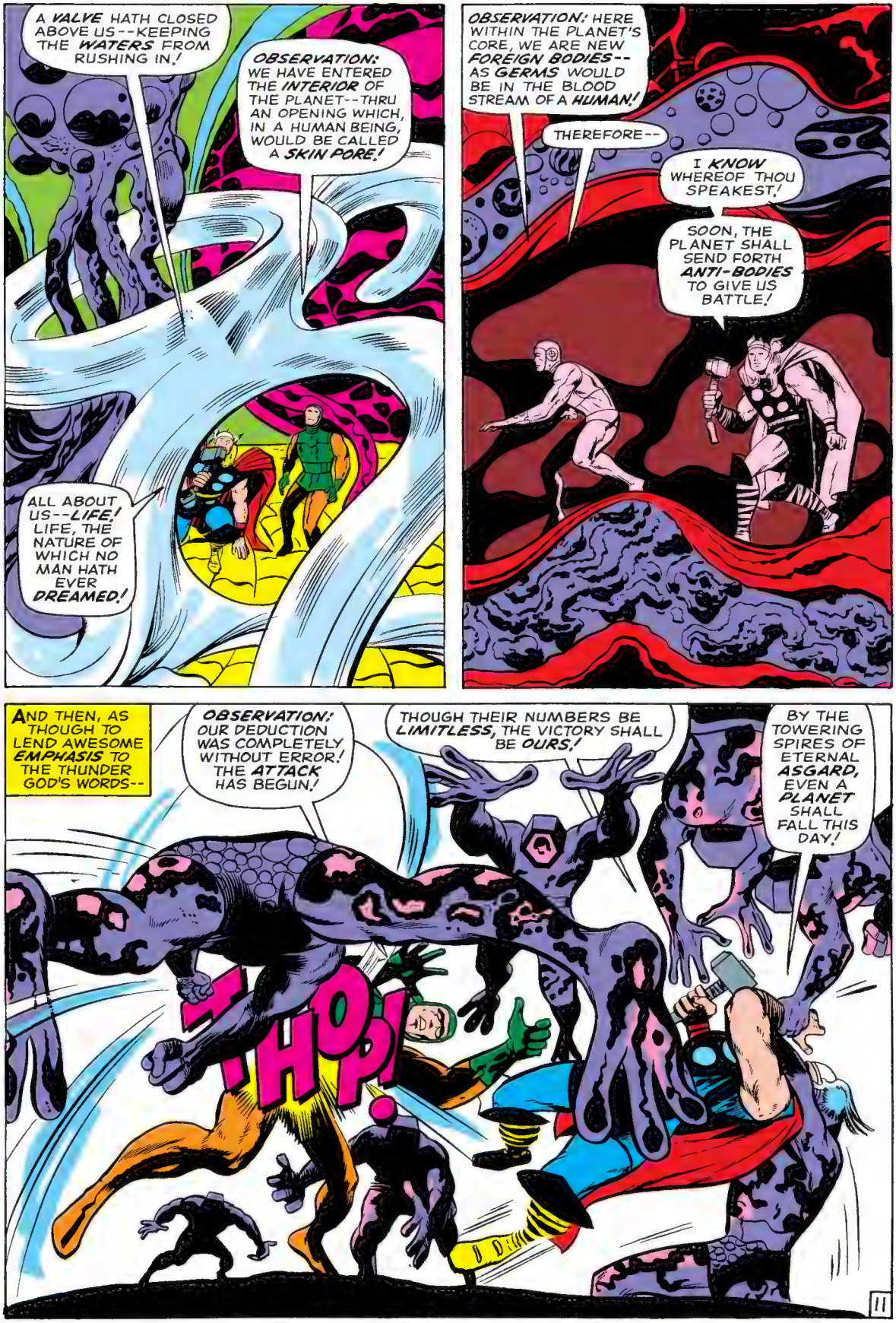

YOU ARE OF NO FURTHER INTEREST TO ME!
HAVING SERVED AS MY MOLECULAR MODEL, YOU HAVE ENABLED ME TO CREATE AN ENDLESS NUMBER OF ANTI-BODIES!
AND SO-- FAREWELL!
NONE MAY DISMISS THE THUNDER GOD IN SUCH CAVALIER FASHION!
OBSERVATION: YOU CANNOT THREATEN ONE WHO IS AN ENTIRE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF!

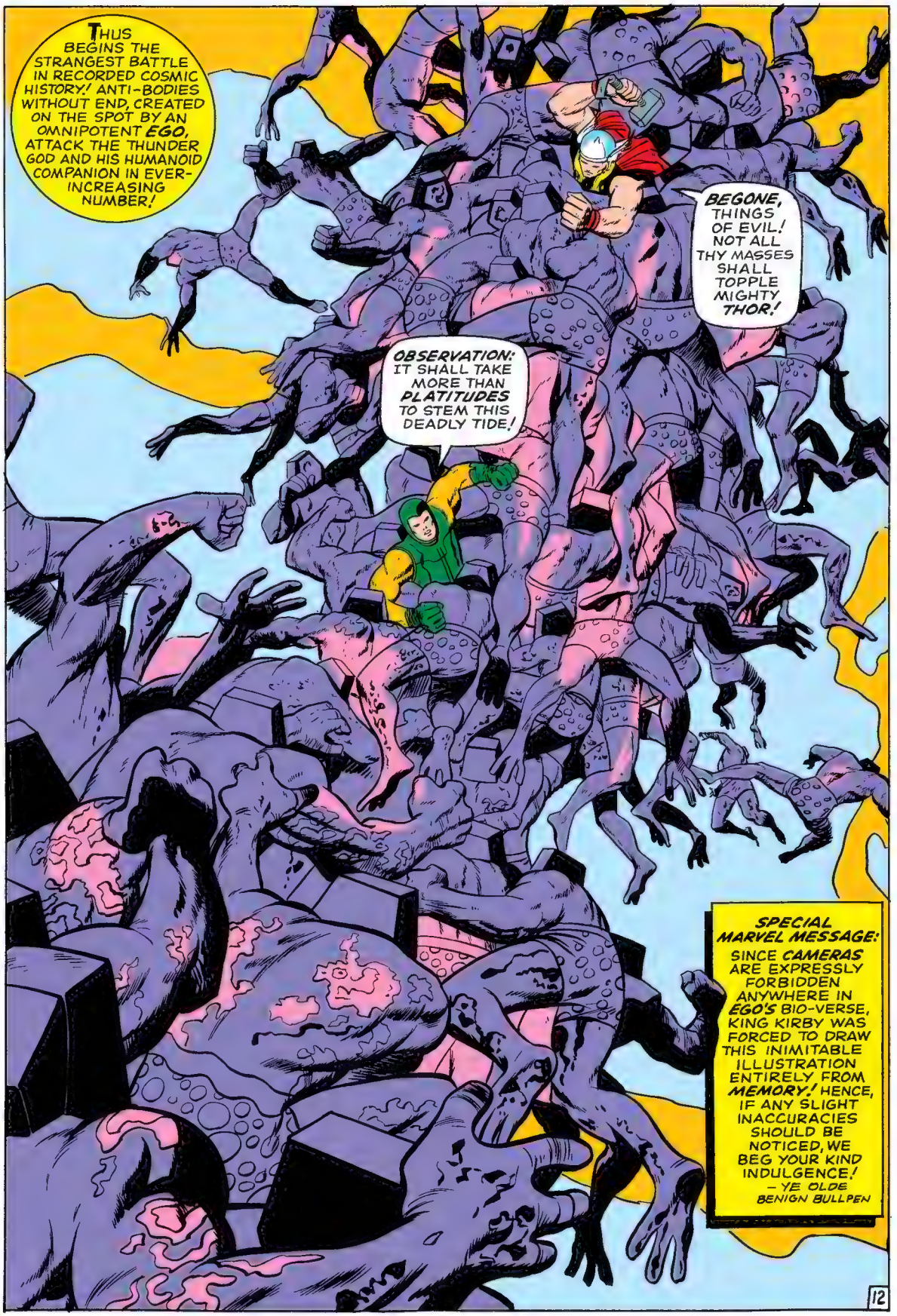

THERE IS MUCH WISDOM IN THY PRONOUNCEMENT!
BEFORE OUR VERY EYES HATH EGO VANISHED!
SINCE MEMORY DAWNED, NEVER HAVE I FOUGHT IN SO STRANGE, SO ALIEN A LAND!
HERE, WITHIN THIS WONDROUS BIO-VERSE, THE LAND, THE SEAS, THE VERY AIR ABOUT US ARE ALL.... ALIVE!

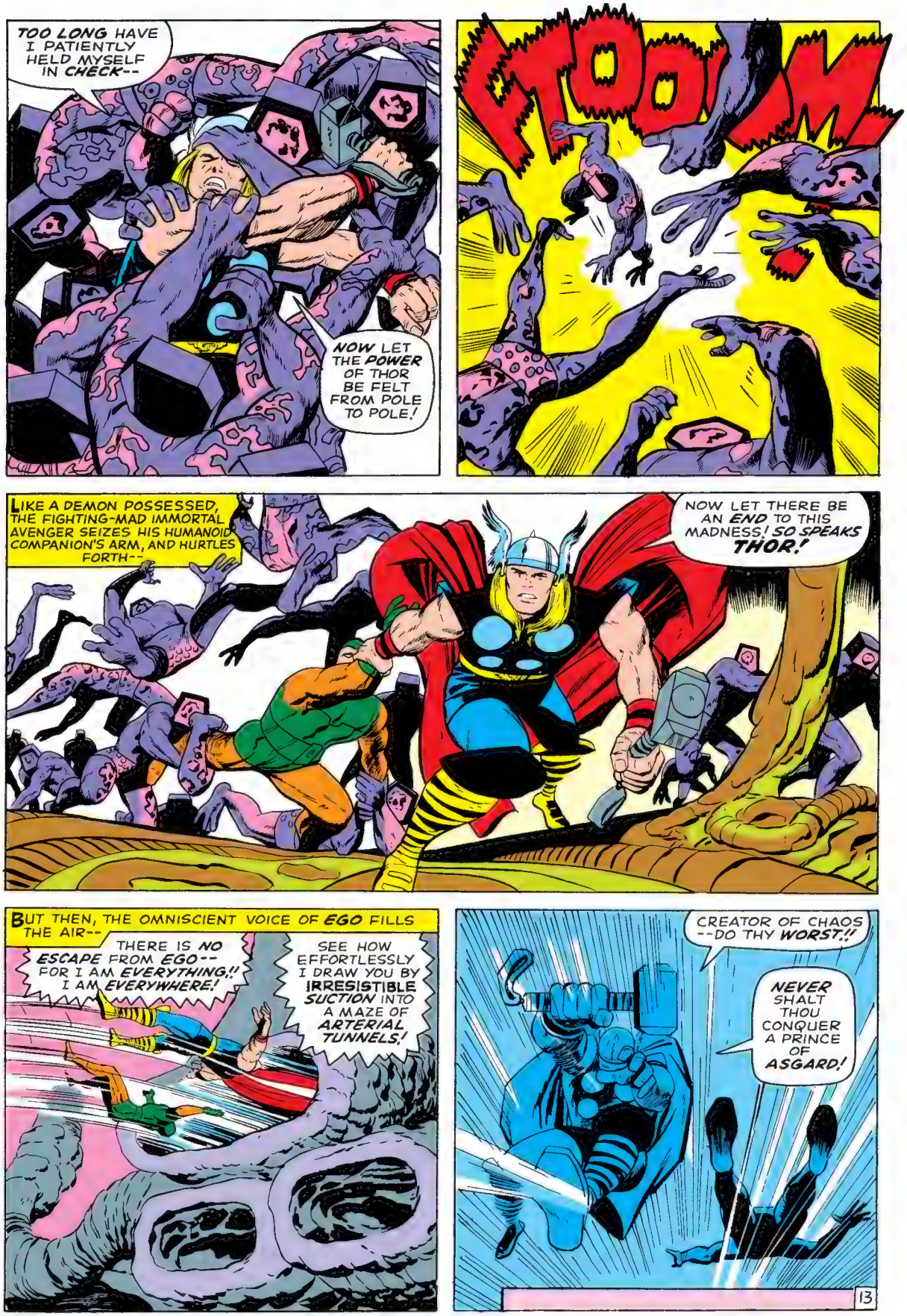

EVERY PART OF THIS PLANET UPON WHICH WE STAND IS VERILY A PART OF EGO! HE IS EVERYWHERE-- HE IS EVERYTHING! HE IS A LIVING WORLD!
THAT NOISE! LIKE THE ONRUSHING TORRENT OF A BOTTOMLESS SEA!
IT IS THERE--!


OBSERVATION: NOTHING OCCURS UPON THIS PLANET UNLESS EGO WILLS IT! THEREFORE, IT IS BY HIS WILL THAT A VERITABLE OCEAN AT FLOOD-TIDE NOW ENGULFS US--!
AN OPENING-- JUST AHEAD! TO MY SIDE, RECORDER! WE SHALL YET PLUCK VICTORY FROM THE SEEMINGLY CERTAIN WHIRLPOOL OF DISMAL DEFEAT!


SINCE THOU ART NOT A BEING OF FLESH AND BLOOD, THOU SHALT NOT SUFFER INJURY!
AND AN IMMORTAL OF ASGARD WILL DARE ALL FOR A CAUSE!
SO I SAY-- FOLLOW ME-- NO MATTER WHERE THE PLUNGE DOTH LEAD!
I MAY DO NAUGHT ELSE! I MUST ATTEND-- AND RECORD!

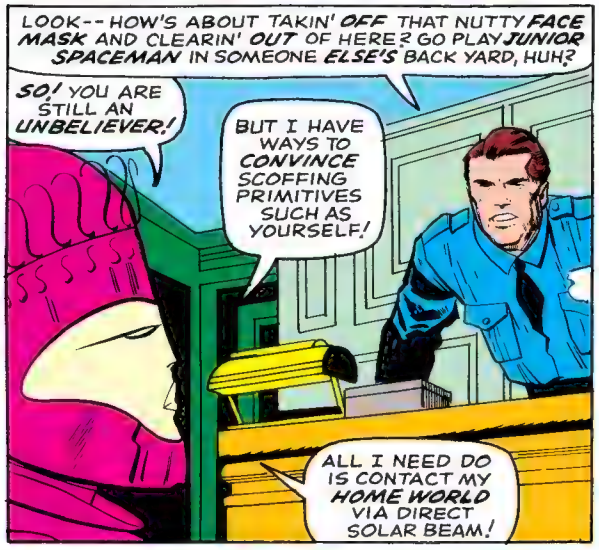

A VALVE HATH CLOSED ABOVE US--KEEPING THE WATERS FROM RUSHING IN!
OBSERVATION: WE HAVE ENTERED THE INTERIOR OF THE PLANET--THRU AN OPENING WHICH, IN A HUMAN BEING, WOULD BE CALLED A SKIN PORE!
ALL ABOUT US--LIFE! LIFE, THE NATURE OF WHICH NO MAN HATH EVER DREAMED!
OBSERVATION! HERE WITHIN THE PLANET'S CORE, WE ARE NEW FOREIGN BODIES--AS GERMS WOULD BE IN THE BLOOD STREAM OF A HUMAN!
THEREFORE--
I KNOW WHEREOF THOU SPEAKEST!
SOON, THE PLANET SHALL SEND FORTH ANTI-BODIES TO GIVE US BATTLE!
AND THEN, AS THOUGH TO LEND AWESOME EMPHASIS TO THE THUNDER GOD'S WORDS--
OBSERVATION! OUR DEDUCTION WAS COMPLETELY, WITHOUT ERROR! THE ATTACK HAS BEGUN!
THOUGH THEIR NUMBERS BE LIMITLESS, THE VICTORY SHALL BE OURS!
BY THE TOWERING SPIRES OF ETERNAL ASGARD, EVEN A PLANET SHALL FALL THIS DAY!
THOP!
11


THUS BEGINS THE STRANGEST BATTLE IN RECORDED COSMIC HISTORY! ANTI-BODIES WITHOUT END, CREATED ON THE SPOT BY AN OMNIPOTENT EGO, ATTACK THE THUNDER GOD AND HIS HUMANOID COMPANION IN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER!
BEGONE, THINGS OF EVIL! NOT ALL THY MASSES SHALL TOPPLE MIGHTY THOR!
OBSERVATION: IT SHALL TAKE MORE THAN PLATITUDES TO STEM THIS DEADLY TIDE!
SPECIAL MARVEL MESSAGE: SINCE CAMERAS ARE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN ANYWHERE IN EGO'S BIO-VERSE, KING KIRBY WAS FORCED TO DRAW THIS INIMITABLE ILLUSTRATION ENTIRELY FROM MEMORY! HENCE, IF ANY SLIGHT INACCURACIES SHOULD BE NOTICED, WE BEG YOUR KIND INDULGENCE! – YE OLDE BENIGN BULLPEN


TOO LONG HAVE I PATIENTLY HELD MYSELF IN CHECK--
NOW LET THE POWER OF THOR BE FELT FROM POLE TO POLE!
KROOM!
LIKE A DEMON POSSESSED, THE FIGHTING-MAD IMMORTAL AVENGER SEIZES HIS HUMANOID COMPANION'S ARM, AND HURTLES FORTH--
NOW LET THERE BE AN END TO THIS MADNESS! SO SPEAKS THOR!
BUT THEN, THE OMNISCIENT VOICE OF EGO FILLS THE AIR--
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM EGO-- FOR I AM EVERYTHING!! I AM EVERYWHERE!
SEE HOW EFFORTLESSLY I DRAW YOU BY IRRESISTIBLE SUCTION INTO A MAZE OF ARTERIAL TUNNELS!
CREATOR OF CHAOS --DO THY WORST!!
NEVER SHALT THOU CONQUER A PRINCE OF ASGARD!

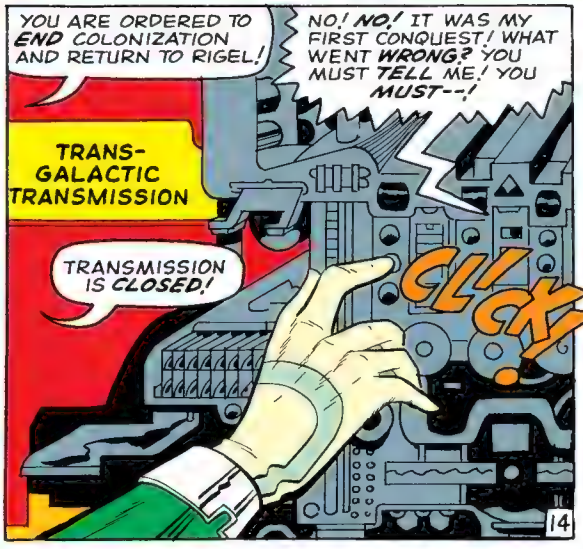
MEANWHILE, COUNTLESS LIGHT-YEARS AWAY, THE INVISIBLE BEAM OF THE COLONIZERS' SPACE-LOCK DRAWS THE PLANET EARTH SLOWLY, SILENTLY, SECRETLY OUT OF ORBIT--!

AS THE FLEDGLING COLONIZER KNOWN AS TANA NILE IMPERIOUSLY ENTERS A LOCAL POLICE PRECINCT--
TAKE ME TO THE RULER OF YOUR PLANET EARTH!
:ULP!: SORRY, LADY--HE'S OUT HAVIN' A CUP OF JAVA NOW!
TAKE WARNING! DO NOT SPEAK LIGHTLY TO THE NEW COLONIZER OF THIS PRIMITIVE WORLD!
HOW'S ABOUT VISITIN' OUR PRISON PSYCHO-LOGIST, INSTEAD?
HENCEFORTH, I AM TO BE ADDRESSED AS EMPRESS TANA, THE FIRST!
YOU'RE THE FIRST, ALL RIGHT! I NEVER SAW ANOTHER ONE LIKE YA!


LOOK-- HOW'S ABOUT TAKIN' OFF THAT NUTTY FACE MASK AND CLEARIN' OUT OF HERE? GO PLAY JUNIOR SPACEMAN IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BACK YARD, HUH?
SO! YOU ARE STILL AN UNBELIEVER!
BUT I HAVE WAYS TO CONVINCE SCOFFING PRIMITIVES SUCH AS YOURSELF!
ALL I NEED DO IS CONTACT MY HOME WORLD VIA DIRECT SOLAR BEAM!

YOU WILL SING A DIFFERENT TUNE WHEN I ORDER THE SPACE-LOCK TO INCREASE VELOCITY, THUS PULLING EARTH OUT OF ORBIT AT STILL GREATER SPEED!
COLONIZER NILE, CALLING COMMAND PLANET! REQUEST INCREASE IN SPEED OF SPACE-LOCK! PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE!

AND, IN THE WORLD CALLED RIGEL--AT AN INTER-COSMIC SWITCHBOARD--
REQUEST DENIED! PLANET EARTH TO BE FREED OF SPACE-LOCK--BY DIRECT ORDER OF GRAND COMMISSIONER!


YOU ARE ORDERED TO END COLONIZATION AND RETURN TO RIGEL!
NO! NO! IT WAS MY FIRST CONQUEST! WHAT WENT WRONG? YOU MUST TELL ME! YOU MUST--!
TRANS-GALACTIC TRANSMISSION
TRANSMISSION IS CLOSED!
CLICK!

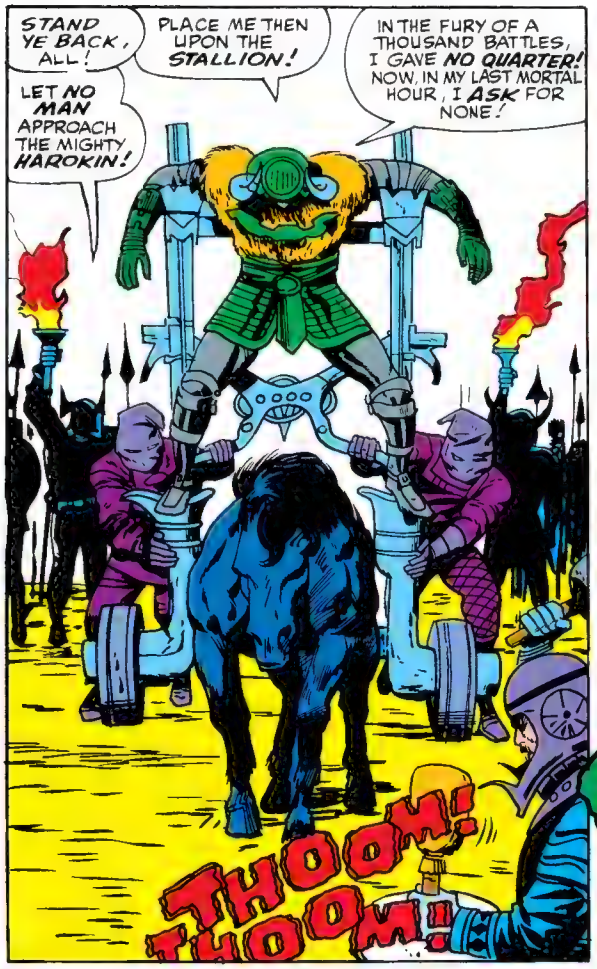
BUT, IF TANA NILE THINKS SHE HAS PROBLEMS, LET'S RETURN TO OUR SORELY HARASSED HERO--!
I HAVE MANAGED TO GAIN A HAND-HOLD--BUT, THE RECORDER IS BEING SWEPT AWAY!!
THOOM
OBSERVATION: EVERY ROCK, STONE, AND PEBBLE OF THIS PLANET IS LIKE THE CELL OF A LIVING BODY--BUT, EVEN MORE--EACH POSSESSES THE WILL OF EGO--AND THE URGE TO DESTROY!
SOON, MY MEMORY BANKS WILL BE SHATTERED --THEN I SHALL RECORD NO MORE!
MY VISION IS OBSCURED BY IMMOVABLE DEBRIS! I AM GROWING INOPERATIVE! MY SERVICE HAS COME TO AN END--!
JUST AHEAD-- I SEE THEE! BE OF STOUT HEART!
THE STRENGTH OF MY LIMBS SHALL FREE THEE BEFORE IT BE TOO LATE!
WRRAK
NO! SAVE YOURSELF! ABANDON ME! I AM BUT A MACHINE!
THOU WERT A FAITHFUL AND TRUE COMPANION--AND THOR SHALT NOT DESERT THEE!
OBSERVATION: FOR THE FIRST TIME-- A RECORDER FEELS-- THE EMOTION OF-- GRATITUDE!
EGO HATH RAISED HIS BODY TEMPERATURE-- BUT IT IS TO NO AVAIL! SUCH HEAT CANNOT AFFECT THE GOD OF THUNDER!
NOR CAN IT DAMAGE MY INSULATED MEMORY BANKS!
BUT NOW, 'TIS TIME TO BREAK FREE OF THIS PLANET--TO LEAVE YON BIO-VERSE FOREVER BEHIND! AND BREAK FREE WE SHALL-- BY THE POWER OF THOR--!
15

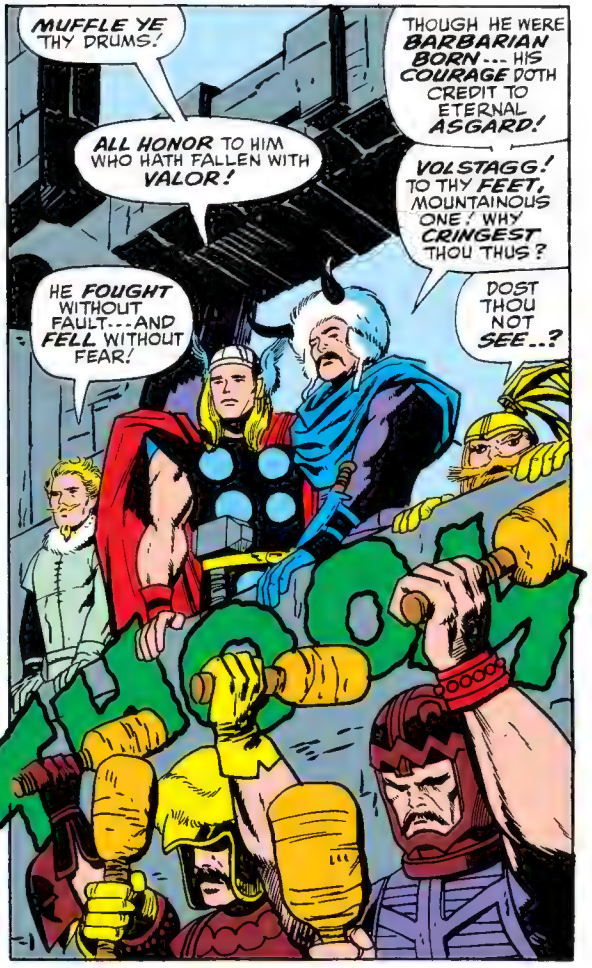
IN THE NAME OF MIGHTY ODIN-- BY THE FURY OF THE THUNDER-- LET THE WINDS WHICH FILL THE COSMOS-- - TEAR THIS EVIL WORLD ASUNDER!!
LET THE LIGHTNING AND THE GALE-- PIERCE THIS PLANET TO THE CORE-- LET THE STORM NOW HUMBLE EGO-- THUS COMMANDS THE MIGHTY THOR!!
KOOM
IT IS DONE!! WE ARE FREE OF THE DEADLY EGO!
NOT EVEN A LIVING PLANET COULD EQUAL THE POWER OF A THUNDER GOD TO CAUSE THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES TO COMBINE IN A UNIVERSE-- SHAKING THERMO-BLAST!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN COUNTLESS MILLENNIA I HAVE BEEN BESTED! NEVER AGAIN SHALL I SUFFER SUCH HUMILIATION!!
NEVER AGAIN SHALL I ATTACK RIGEL! NEVER AGAIN SHALL I SEEK TO INVADE OTHER GALAXIES! I SHALL EVER BE A WORLD APART-- TILL ETERNITY CRUMBLES!
HENCEFORTH, MY BIO-VERSE SHALL BE SEALED OFF FROM EACH AND ANY KNOWN UNIVERSE!
THE QUEST IS ENDED! NEVERMORE SHALL THE BLACK GALAXY MENACE THE ETERNAL COSMOS! NOW, BACK TO RIGEL, AND THENCE TO EARTH!
YET, SOMEHOW I FEEL THE GREATEST DANGER OF ALL AWAITS ME-- IN THE WORLD WHERE MORTALS DWELL!
NEXT ISSUE:
THE PEOPLE BREEDERS!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

# "VALHALLA!"

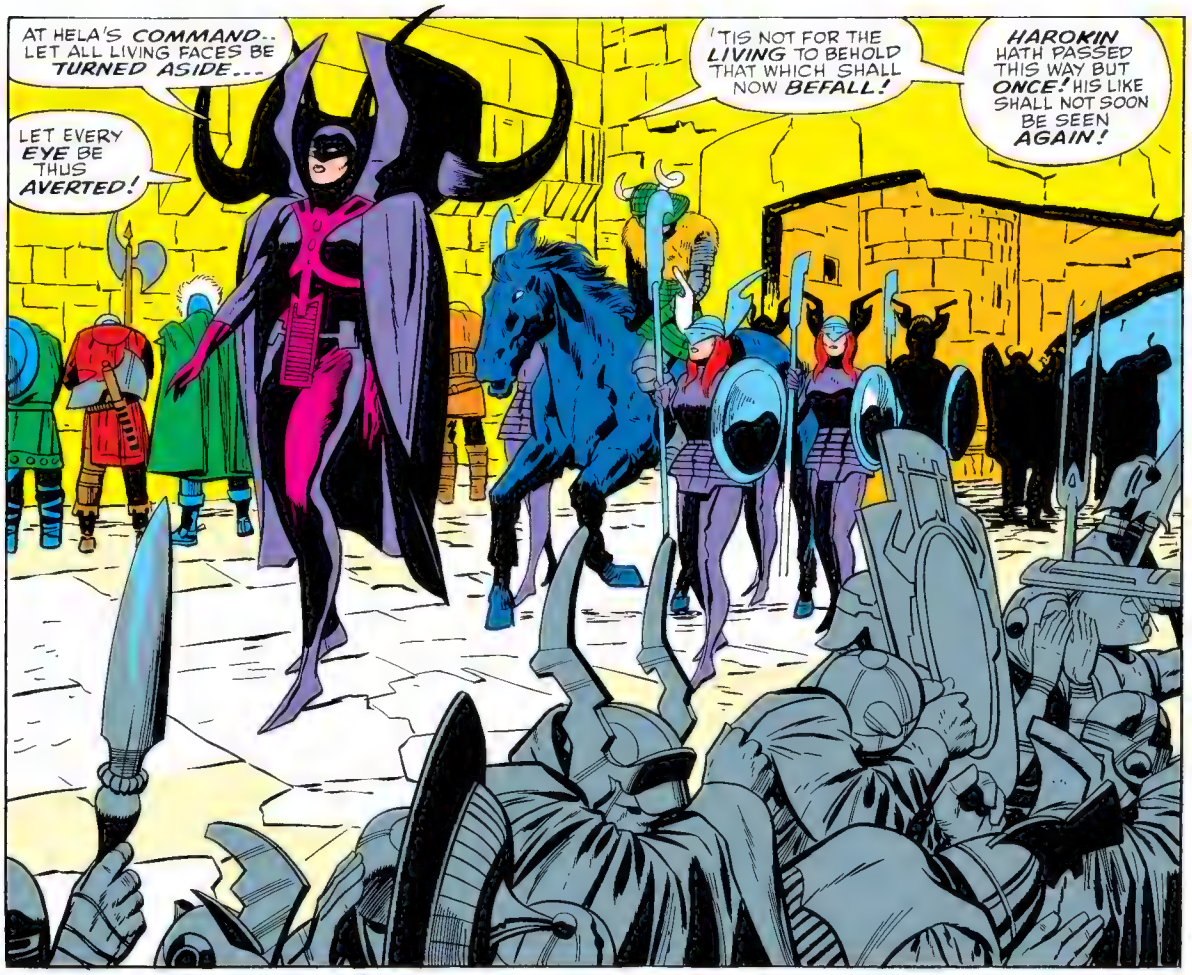
HAROKIN, VALIANT LEADER OF THE BARBARIAN HORDES, HAS BEEN DEFEATED IN BATTLE BY THE MIGHTY LEGIONS OF THOR AND NOW, THE FATALLY WOUNDED CHIEFTAIN PREPARES FOR HIS FINAL JOURNEY...
THE BLACK STALLION OF DOOM AWAITS THEE, MASTER!
ALL IS IN READINESS FOR THY LAST ADVENTURE!
A STAN LEE-JACK KIRBY PRODUCTION
INKED BY: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN
(MAY THEIR ARMOR NEVER TARNISH!)

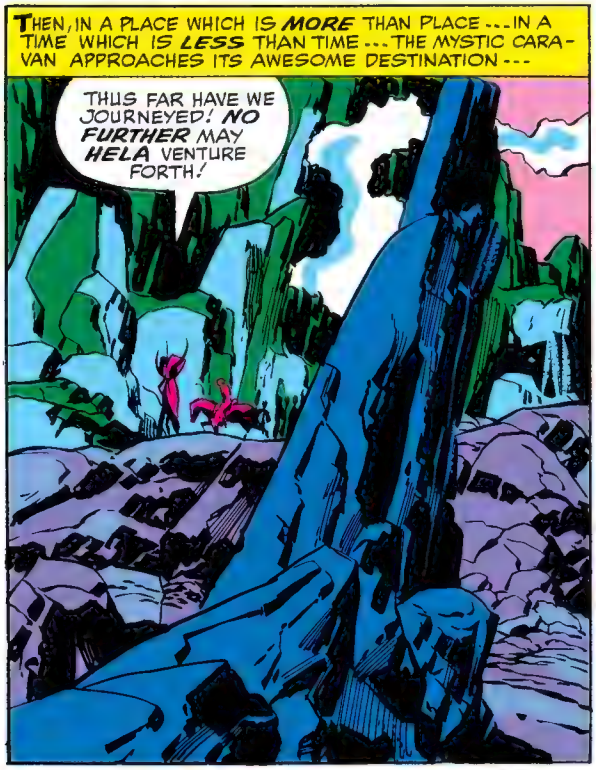

STAND YE BACK, ALL!
PLACE ME THEN UPON THE STALLION!
IN THE FURY OF A THOUSAND BATTLES, I GAVE NO QUARTER! NOW, IN MY LAST MORTAL HOUR, I ASK FOR NONE!
LET NO MAN APPROACH THE MIGHTY HAROKIN!
THOOM! THOOM!

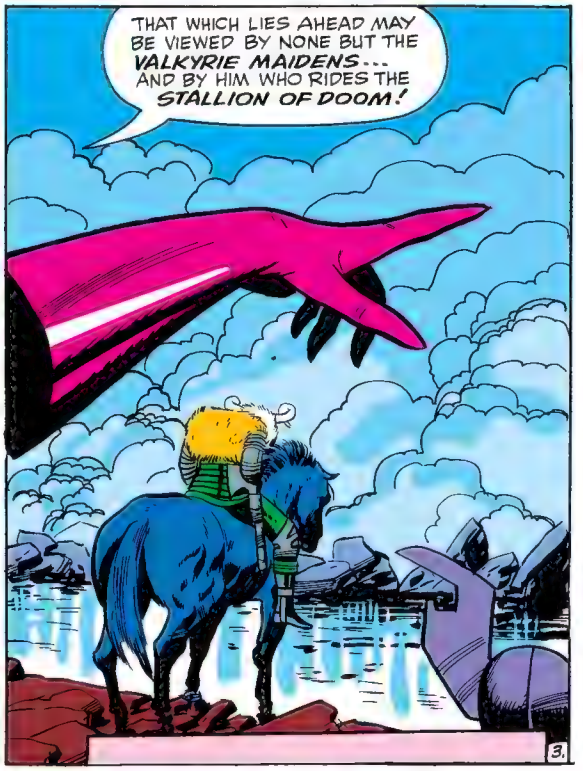

MUFFLE YE THY DRUMS!
THOUGH HE WERE BARBARIAN BORN--- HIS COURAGE DOTH CREDIT TO ETERNAL ASGARD!
ALL HONOR TO HIM WHO HATH FALLEN WITH VALOR!
VOLSTAGG! TO THY FEET, MOUNTAINOUS ONE! WHY CRINGEST THOU THUS?
HE FOUGHT WITHOUT FAULT---AND FELL WITHOUT FEAR!
DOST THOU NOT SEE..?
THOOM

FROM OUT OF THE MISTS SHE HATH COME---
SHE--- BEFORE WHOM ALL WHO LIVE MUST ONE DAY BOW!
EVEN THE HEROIC HEART OF VOLSTAGG DOTH TREMBLE AT THE MEREST SIGHT OF HER---

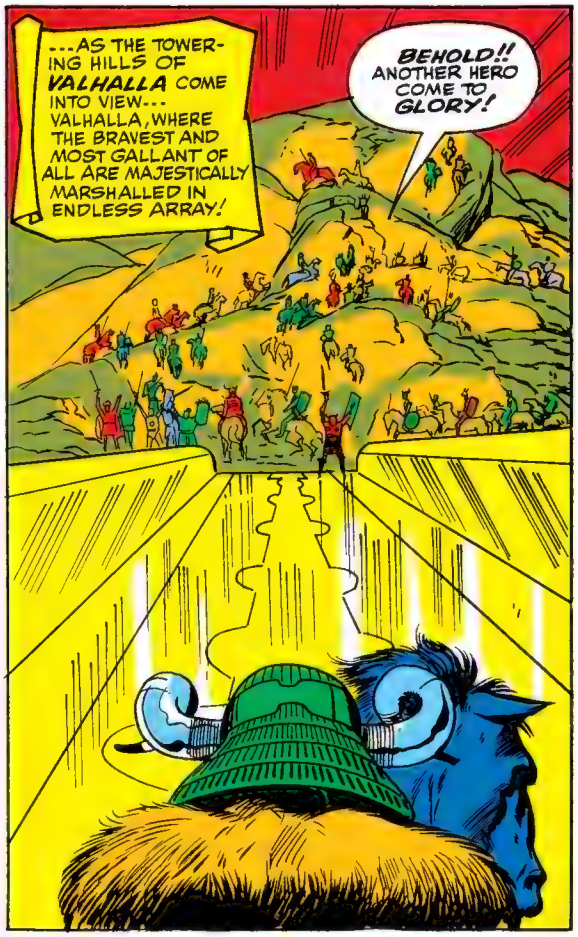
FOR, IS SHE NOT HELA, EVER-EMOTIONLESS GODDESS OF DEATH?!!
AND, BEHIND HER--- THE SILENT, UNYIELDING VALKYRIE GUARD!
2.


AT HELA'S COMMAND.. LET ALL LIVING FACES BE TURNED ASIDE...
LET EVERY EYE BE THUS AVERTED!
'TIS NOT FOR THE LIVING TO BEHOLD THAT WHICH SHALL NOW BEFALL!
HAROKIN HATH PASSED THIS WAY BUT ONCE! HIS LIKE SHALL NOT SOON BE SEEN AGAIN!


THEN, IN A PLACE WHICH IS MORE THAN PLACE ---IN A TIME WHICH IS LESS THAN TIME ---THE MYSTIC CARAVAN APPROACHES ITS AWEOMSE DESTINATION ---
THUS FAR HAVE WE JOURNEYED! NO FURTHER MAY HELA VENTURE FORTH!


THAT WHICH LIES AHEAD MAY BE VIEWED BY NONE BUT THE VALKYRIE MAIDENS... AND BY HIM WHO RIDES THE STALLION OF DOOM!
3.

SLOWLY, THE VAPORS PART, REVEALING A GLISTENING, GOLDEN BRIDGE WHICH GLITTERS WITH A BRILLIANCE BEYOND MORTAL KEN ---
THEN, THE SILENCE IS BROKEN BY THE CLATTER OF RUNNING FEET--- AND THE MUFFLED THUNDER OF UNSHOD HOOVES...


---AS THE TOWERING HILLS OF VALHALLA COME INTO VIEW--- VALHALLA, WHERE THE BRAVEST AND MOST GALLANT OF ALL ARE MAJESTICALLY MARSHALLED IN ENDLESS ARRAY!
BEHOLD!! ANOTHER HERO COME TO GLORY!

HERE WILT THOU FIND THE HERALDRY, THE BATTLE, THE ADVENTURE THY SPIRIT CRAVES --- HERE, 'MIDST PAGEANTRY EVERLASTING!
KNOW THOU, HAROKIN, THAT DEATH IS MORE THAN AN ENDING--- 'TIS THE GREATEST BEGINNING OF ALL!
TO OUR SIDE THEN, WARRIOR! WE AWAIT THEE IN OUR SERRIED RANKS!

THE WEARINESS DOTH LEAVE MY LIMBS!! I FEEL NEW STRENGTH WITHIN ME --- VIGOR, SUCH AS I HAVE NEVER KNOWN!
THE SOUND OF BATTLE...THE CLANG OF ARMOR... THE MOST JOYOUS MUSIC EVER HEARD!

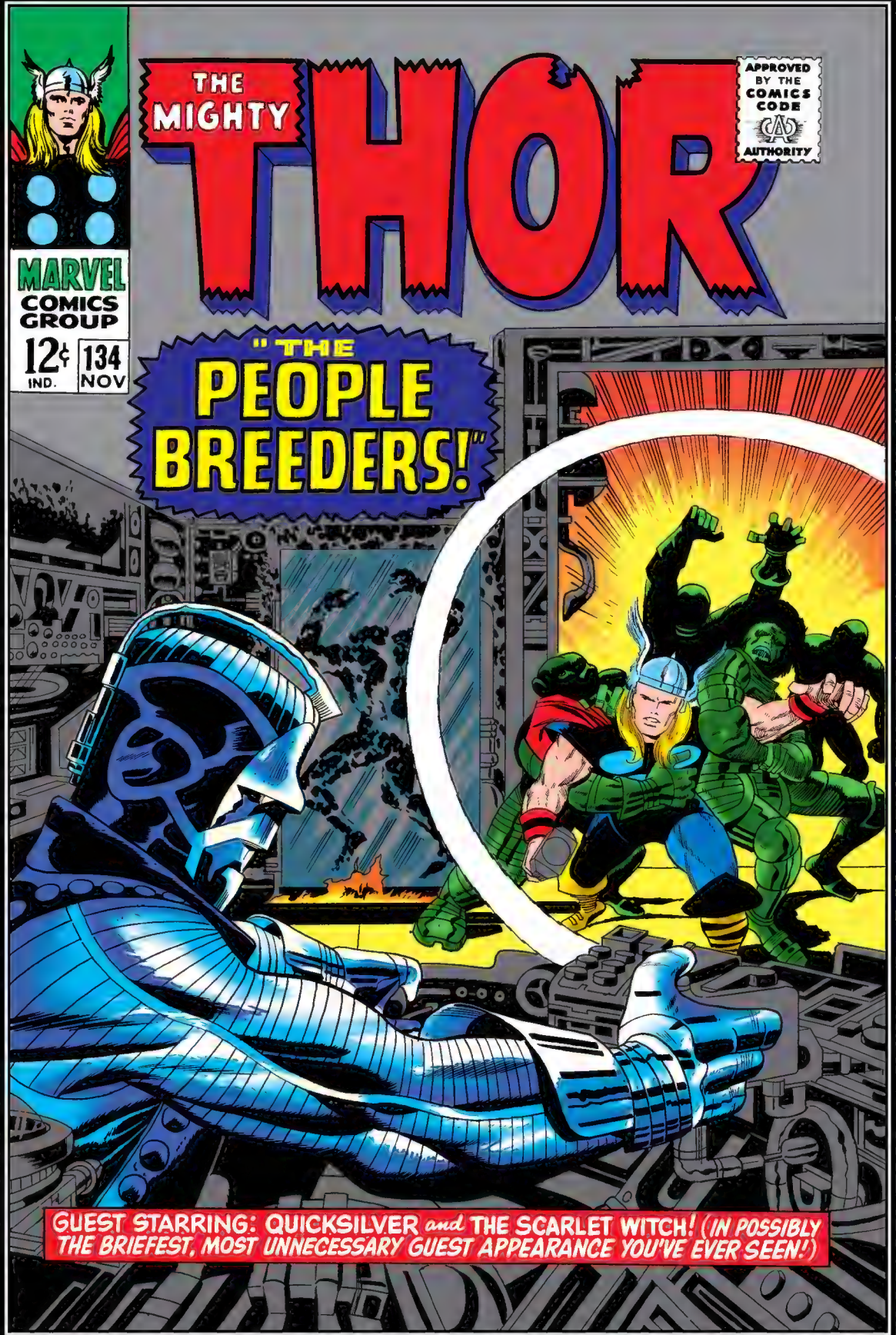
TO ARMS, THEN-- ONE AND ALL!
LET THE TRUMPETS BLARE! LET THE FLAGS UNFURL! THE CALL TO BATTLE FILLS THE AIR! NOW SHALL A WARRIOR RIDE!!

THUS, WITH A RINGING ROAR OF VICTORY BURSTING FROM HIS LIPS, HAROKIN THE BARBARIAN JOYOUSLY SALLIES FORTH --- INTO ETERNITY!
THROBOOM!

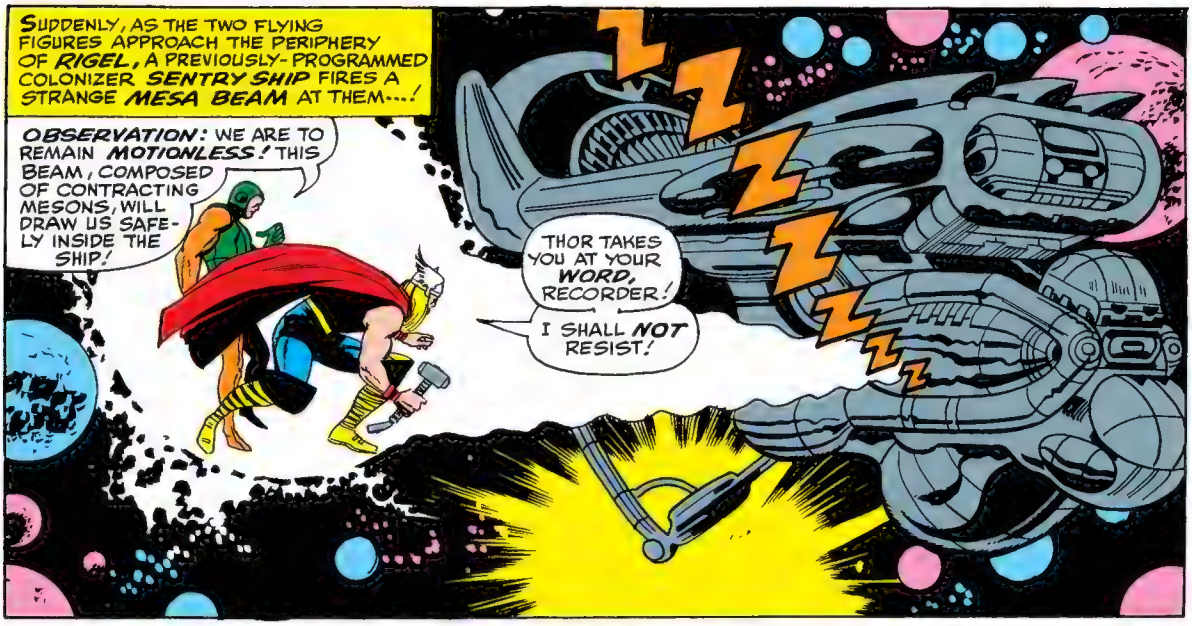
HAROKIN IS GONE! LET US DRINK TO THE BRAVE BARBARIAN!
MAY HIS SPIRIT RIDE FOREVER IN THE SUN-DRENCHED VALE OF VALHALLA!
TO OUR FALLEN FOE! TO THE JOURNEY HE HATH MADE---
THE JOURNEY THAT AWAITS US ALL--- IF ASGARD FINDS US WORTHY!
CLINK!

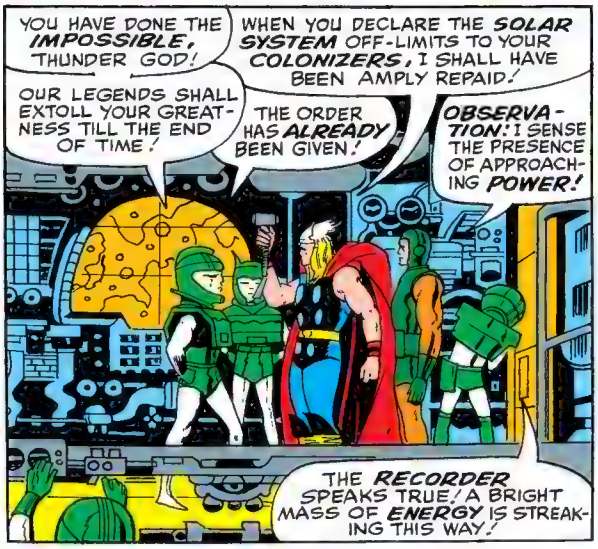
VOLSTAGG, THOU BARREL-SHAPED BUFFOON!
ARISE FROM BENEATH YON TABLE! THE GODDESS OF DEATH HATH LONG SINCE DEPARTED! LIFT THY MUG WITH US IN TRIBUTE!
FIE UPON THEE! VALIANT VOLSTAGG.. WHOSE VERY NAME IS A BYWORD FOR BRAVERY---HIDES FROM NO MERE FEMALE!
SO DO I JOIN THEE IN A STOUT-HEARTED TOAST TO COURAGE--- --IF THOU ART CERTAIN HELA HATH GONE!

NEXT:
"WHEN SPEAKS THE DRAGON!"

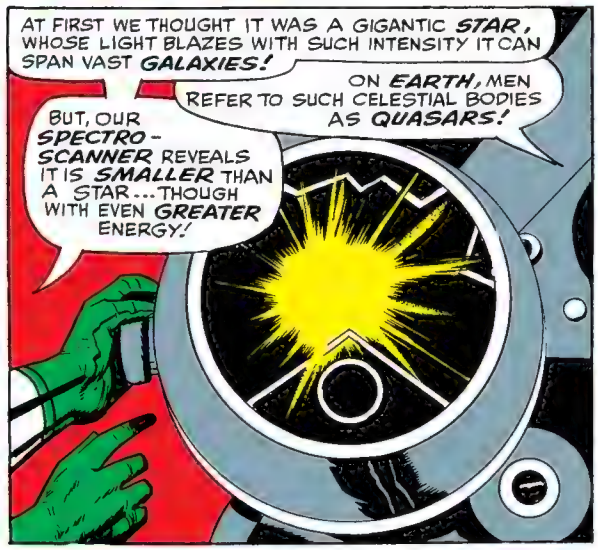

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
134 NOV
"THE PEOPLE BREEDERS!"
GUEST STARRING: QUICKSILVER and THE SCARLET WITCH! (IN POSSIBLY THE BRIEFEST, MOST UNNECESSARY GUEST APPEARANCE YOU'VE EVER SEEN!)

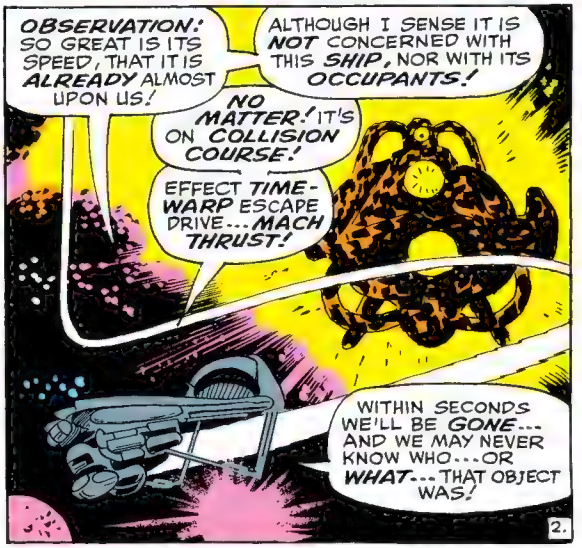
THE MIGHTY THOR!
"The PEOPLE-BREEDERS!"
AS LAST ISSUE REVEALED TO ALL TRUE BELIEVERS, THE GOD OF THUNDER FOUGHT EGO, THE LIVING PLANET, TO A STANDSTILL WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK GALAXY! NOW, MIGHTY THOR, AND THE HUMAN-FORM RECORDER, WHOM HE HAS RESCUED, RETURN TO RIGEL...
EGO HAS VOWED NEVER TO ATTACK ANY FOE BEYOND THE BLACK GALAXY! THEREFORE, MY QUEST HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL!
OBSERVATION: SINCE YOU HAVE SAVED THIS WORLD FROM INVASION, RIGEL MUST FULFILL ITS PROMISE TO YOU!
THEY SHALL ABANDON ALL ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER EARTH!
A STAN LEE * JACK KIRBY FANTASTI-CLASSIC!
INKED BY: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN
WE HAVE SPOKEN!


SUDDENLY, AS THE TWO FLYING FIGURES APPROACH THE PERIPHERY OF RIGEL, A PREVIOUSLY-PROGRAMMED COLONIZER SENTRY SHIP FIRES A STRANGE MESA BEAM AT THEM---!
OBSERVATION: WE ARE TO REMAIN MOTIONLESS! THIS BEAM, COMPOSED OF CONTRACTING MESONS, WILL DRAW US SAFELY INSIDE THE SHIP!
THOR TAKES YOU AT YOUR WORD, RECORDER!
I SHALL NOT RESIST!


YOU HAVE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE, THUNDER GOD!
WHEN YOU DECLARE THE SOLAR SYSTEM OFF-LIMITS TO YOUR COLONIZERS, I SHALL HAVE BEEN AMPLY REPAID!
OUR LEGENDS SHALL EXTOLL YOUR GREATNESS TILL THE END OF TIME!
THE ORDER HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN!
OBSERVATION: I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF APPROACHING POWER!
THE RECORDER SPEAKS TRUE! A BRIGHT MASS OF ENERGY IS STREAKING THIS WAY!

WE HAVE BEEN TRACKING THAT MYSTERIOUS OBJECT WHILE WAITING FOR YOU!
IT HAS LEAPED ACROSS COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS OF SPACE WITH UNBELIEVABLE SPEED!
WHAT MANNER OF ENTITY CAN IT BE?

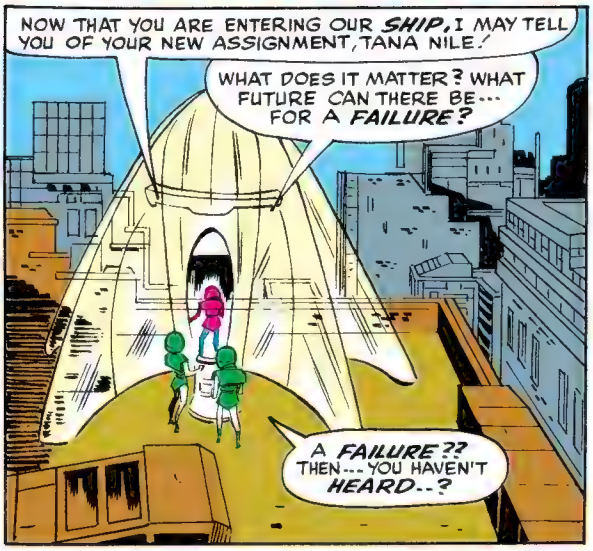

AT FIRST WE THOUGHT IT WAS A GIGANTIC STAR, WHOSE LIGHT BLAZES WITH SUCH INTENSITY IT CAN SPAN VAST GALAXIES!
ON EARTH, MEN REFER TO SUCH CELESTIAL BODIES AS QUASARS!
BUT, OUR SPECTRO-SCANNER REVEALS IT IS SMALLER THAN A STAR...THOUGH WITH EVEN GREATER ENERGY!


OBSERVATION: SO GREAT IS ITS SPEED, THAT IT IS ALREADY ALMOST UPON US!
ALTHOUGH I SENSE IT IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THIS SHIP, NOR WITH ITS OCCUPANTS!
NO MATTER! IT'S ON COLLISION COURSE!
EFFECT TIME-WARP ESCAPE DRIVE...MACH THRUST!
WITHIN SECONDS WE'LL BE GONE... AND WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHO...OR WHAT...THAT OBJECT WAS!

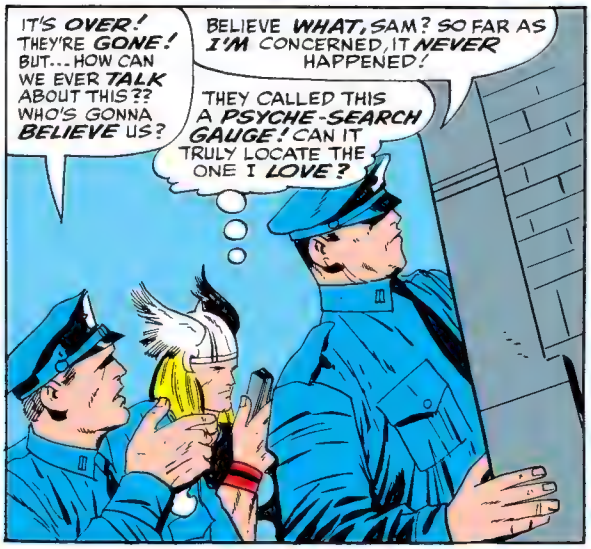
THUS DOES AN ENIGMATIC FATE PLAY INCOMPREHENSIBLE TRICKS UPON US ALL! HOW COULD MIGHTY THOR HAVE SUSPECTED THAT HE WAS ALMOST WITHIN HAMMER-THROWING DISTANCE OF THE MOST AWESOME LIVING ENTITY IN THE COSMOS? SLOWLY, MAJESTICALLY, THE INDESCRIBABLE FIGURE OF GALACTUS RISES FROM HIS GIANT STAR-SHIP AS HE AIMS AN INFALLIBLE QUADRANT ANALYZER AT THE BLACK GALAXY WHICH SWIRLS IN THE INFINITE EMPTINESS BEFORE HIM---!*
MY QUADRANT ANALYZER REGISTERS AN ABUNDANCE OF LIFE ENERGY EMANATING FROM WITHIN THE SHADOWY GALAXY BEFORE ME!
SINCE I AM DESTINED TO ROAM THE ENDLESS SKYWAYS, EVER SEEKING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY UPON WHICH TO FEED, I HAVE BUT ONE CHOICE...
I MUST ENTER THE BLACK GALAXY AND DESTROY WHATEVER LIFE MAY THEREIN EXIST!
I DO SO...NOT OUT OF GREED--NOT OUT OF HATE--NOT OUT OF AMBITION... FOR THOSE ARE EMOTIONS OF LESSER BEINGS! I DO SO BECAUSE I MUST...BECAUSE I AM...GALACTUS!!
*AS ALL MARVELDOM KNOWS, GALACTUS FIRST APPEARED IN FANTASTIC FOUR #48, 49, AND 50--- AND, IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT WE SHALL MEET HIM AGAIN AT SOME FUTURE TIME--- WHEN WE, AND MANKIND, LEAST EXPECT IT! ...STENTORIAN STAN.

BUT, SINCE THIS EPIC EXTRAVAGANZA IS CONCERNED WITH OTHER MATTERS, WE MUST TAKE OUR LEAVE OF GALACTUS FOR NOW, AS WE VISIT A NEW YORK POLICE PRECINCT BACK ON MOTHER EARTH ---
OUR ORDERS ARE FINAL---AND IRREVOCABLE, COLONIZER NILE! WE HAVE REMOVED THE SPACE LOCK FROM THE PLANET EARTH!
BUT...YOU CAN'T! I TOOK POSSESSION --BY RIGHT OF CONQUEST!
IT WAS MY FIRST COLONIZATION! WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
NOTHING, COLONIZER NILE! EVENTS FAR GREATER THAN YOU CAN COMPREHEND HAVE CAUSED OUR DECISION!
BUT, YOU SHALL NOT GO UNREWARDED! AT THIS VERY INSTANT, YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO RIGEL, FOR YOUR GREATEST ASSIGNMENT!
COLONIZER NILE! WE HAVE COME FOR YOU!
DO NOT FEAR! WE HAVE ESCORTED THE GOD OF THUNDER TO THIS GALAXY, AND SHALL ESCORT YOU BACK TO RIGEL!
YOUR REIGN OVER EARTH IS ENDED, TANA NILE! ENDED FOREVER!
THOR!! THEN--- THIS IS YOUR DOING!
THEY...WALKED PAST US...LIKE WE WEREN'T HERE!
KNOW SOMETHIN', JIM? I WISH WE WEREN'T!
IF YOU GUYS SEE 'EM, TOO--THEN-- I AIN'T DREAMIN'!!
I BEAR YOU NO MALICE! YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD BEEN TRAINED TO DO! BUT, ONE THING I MUST KNOW---
THE GIRL...JANE FOSTER---WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?
SHE IS UNHARMED! I MERELY SENT HER AWAY, HOPING YOU WOULD WASTE TIME SEARCHING FOR HER!
I DO NOT KNOW HER PRESENT WHEREABOUTS!
SHE MAY SPEAK NO MORE, THUNDER GOD!
BY MEANS OF THIS RIGELLIAN COMPELLOR BEAM, I HEREBY PLACE EX-COLONIZER TANA NILE IN CUSTODY!
YOU SHALL FIND THE ONE YOU SEEK! THIS PSYCHE-SEARCH GAUGE WILL LEAD YOU TO THE GIRL BY LOCATING HER LIFE FORCE AURA!
YOU HAVE EARNED THE GRATITUDE OF THOR!
YOU WILL ENTER THE SHIP WHICH AWAITS US UPON THE ROOF!
WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE ARE THEY TAKIN' HER??
4.

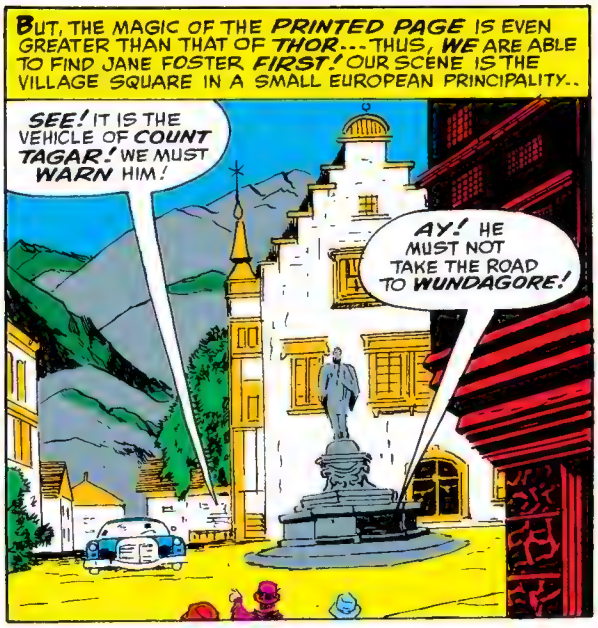
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE ROOF, CAPTAIN!
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY LEGAL REASON TO STOP THEM... NOT THAT I'M SURE WE COULD, EVEN IF WE WANTED TO!
BY MY AUTHORITY AS AN AVENGER, I SAY STAND BACK! SHE SHALL BE PROPERLY DEALT WITH UPON HER OWN PLANET! UNDER THE LAWS OF RIGEL!
HE REALLY MEANS IT! HE THINKS THEY ARE TAKIN' HER TO ANOTHER PLANET!
Y'KNOW SOMETHIN', CHARLIE? WE MAY ALL BE CANDIDATES FOR A PADDED CELL!

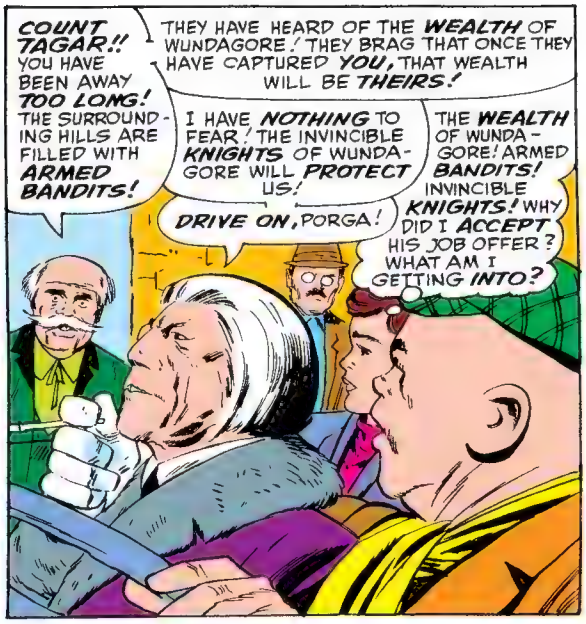

NOW THAT YOU ARE ENTERING OUR SHIP, I MAY TELL YOU OF YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT, TANA NILE!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WHAT FUTURE CAN THERE BE... FOR A FAILURE?
A FAILURE?? THEN... YOU HAVEN'T HEARD..?

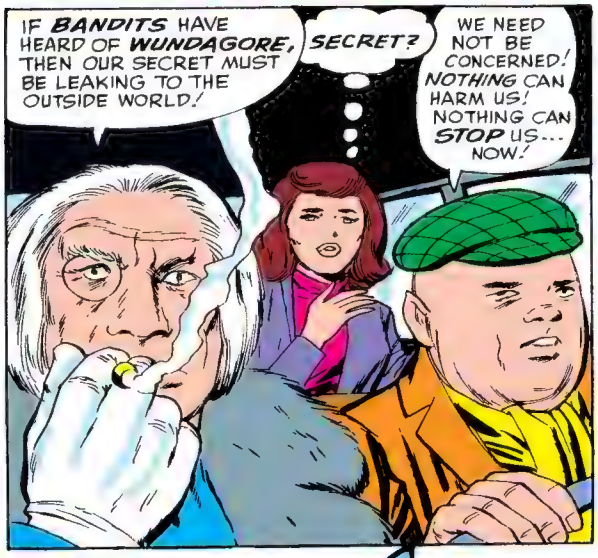
SINCE RIGEL IS SAFE FOREVER FROM THE BLACK GALAXY, YOU ARE TO RECEIVE THE HIGHEST REWARD FOR HAVING A PART IN OUR GOOD FORTUNE!
YOU HAD YEARNED TO RULE A PLANET... BUT NOW, YOU SHALL RULE A GALAXY!
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS CHOSEN YOU..FOR HIS WIFE!
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER... WHOM I HAVE LOVED FROM AFAR FOR YEARS!
THEN... ON TO RIEGEL.. WHERE WAITS MY HEART'S DESIRE!


IT'S OVER! THEY'RE GONE! BUT... HOW CAN WE EVER TALK ABOUT THIS?? WHO'S GONNA BELIEVE US?
BELIEVE WHAT, SAM? SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IT NEVER HAPPENED!
THEY CALLED THIS A PSYCHE-SEARCH GAUGE! CAN IT TRULY LOCATE THE ONE I LOVE?

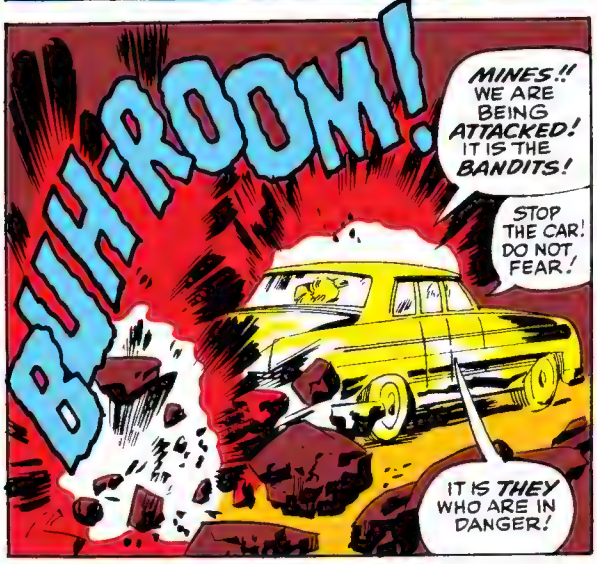
FOR, UNLESS I FIND JANE FOSTER, I... WAIT!!
NO SOONER DID I THINK HER NAME, THAN A LIGHT APPEARED UPON THE GAUGE... LIKE A LIVING BEACON, POINTING THE WAY TO MY BELOVED!
I MUST GO TO HER... THOUGH ALL THE POWER IN THE COSMOS ATTEMPTS TO BAR MY WAY!


BUT, THE MAGIC OF THE PRINTED PAGE IS EVEN GREATER THAN THAT OF THOR---THUS, WE ARE ABLE TO FIND JANE FOSTER FIRST! OUR SCENE IS THE VILLAGE SQUARE IN A SMALL EUROPEAN PRINCIPALITY..
SEE! IT IS THE VEHICLE OF COUNT TAGAR! WE MUST WARN HIM!
AY! HE MUST NOT TAKE THE ROAD TO WUNDAGORE!


COUNT TAGAR!! YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG! THE SURROUNDING HILLS ARE FILLED WITH ARMED BANDITS!
THEY HAVE HEARD OF THE WEALTH OF WUNDAGORE! THEY BRAG THAT ONCE THEY HAVE CAPTURED YOU, THAT WEALTH WILL BE THEIRS!
I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! THE INVINCIBLE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE WILL PROTECT US!
DRIVE ON, PORGA!
THE WEALTH OF WUNDAGORE! ARMED BANDITS! INVINCIBLE KNIGHTS! WHY DID I ACCEPT HIS JOB OFFER? WHAT AM I GETTING INTO?


IF BANDITS HAVE HEARD OF WUNDAGORE, THEN OUR SECRET MUST BE LEAKING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
SECRET?
WE NEED NOT BE CONCERNED! NOTHING CAN HARM US! NOTHING CAN STOP US--- NOW!

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAS PLANNED TOO WELL! WUNDAGORE IS GREATER THAN ANYONE CAN EVER IMAGINE!
IT IS THEM!
QUICK! RADIO AHEAD! TELL THEM THAT COUNT TAGAR IS APPROACHING!
THEY WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
CODE THREE! VICTIM APPROACHING..!!

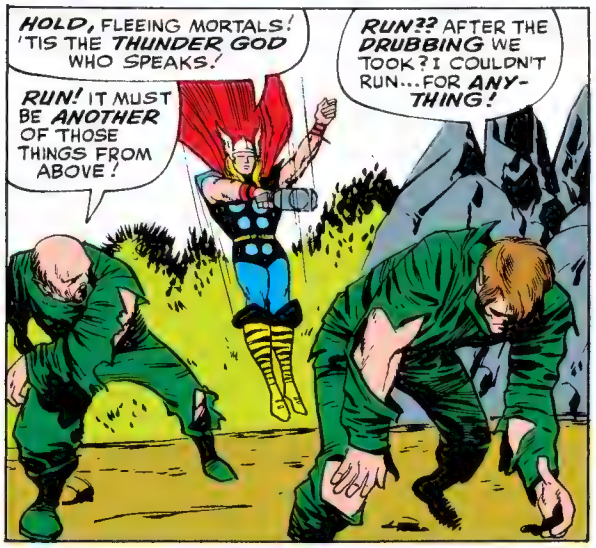

BUH-ROOM!
MINES!! WE ARE BEING ATTACKED! IT IS THE BANDITS!
STOP THE CAR! DO NOT FEAR!
IT IS THEY WHO ARE IN DANGER!

THEY'RE GETTING OUT OF THE CAR!!
GRAB THEM! THEY MUSTN'T ESCAPE! SURROUND THEM!
THE OTHERS ARE NOT IMPORTANT! SEIZE COUNT TAGER! HE WILL LEAD US TO THE TREASURES OF WUNDAGORE!

ARRRHHHH! HE FIGHTS... LIKE A WILD BEAST!!
BACK! BACK, YOU CRAVEN CARRION! YOU DO NOT DREAM WHOM YOU ARE ATTACKING!!
THRAPT!
STAY BACK, TAGAR! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!! I'M WARNING YOU..!
HE'S TOO DANGEROUS!! THEY CAN'T HOLD HIM! HE MUSTN'T REACH US!! FIRE!
FTHOK!
WHRRIZZZZ
A BOLA!! THROWN FROM... THE SKY! LOOK OUT!! ABOVE US... NOOO!
zzzzz
SPLANG!
I CAN'T MOVE!! A METAL LANCE IS PINIONING ME AGAINST THE CLIFF!
OUR WEAPONS DON'T STOP THEM!
KRAK!
RUN!! THEY'RE ATTACKING FROM THE SKY! THEY'LL KILL US ALL!! RUN!!
7

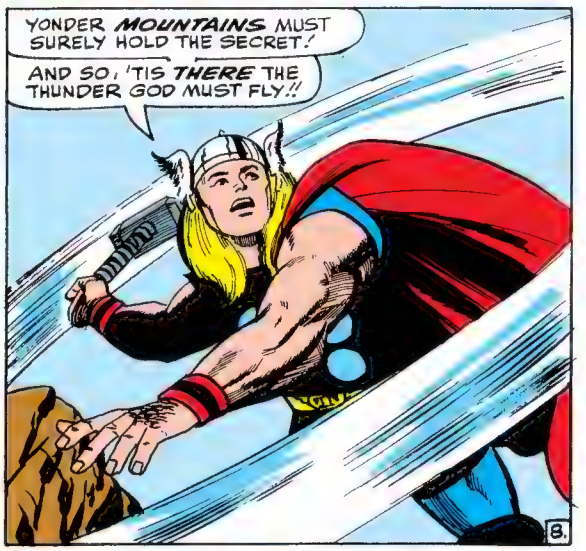
AND, AT THAT MOMENT, ABOVE THE LONELY ROAD TO WUNDAGORE---
THE LIGHT ON THE GAUGE GLOWS BRIGHTER! I MUST BE NEARING JANE FOSTER!
THERE...IN THE SKY!! IT IS THE MIGHTY THOR!
EVEN HE WILL NOT GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE FORBIDDEN WUNDAGORE!

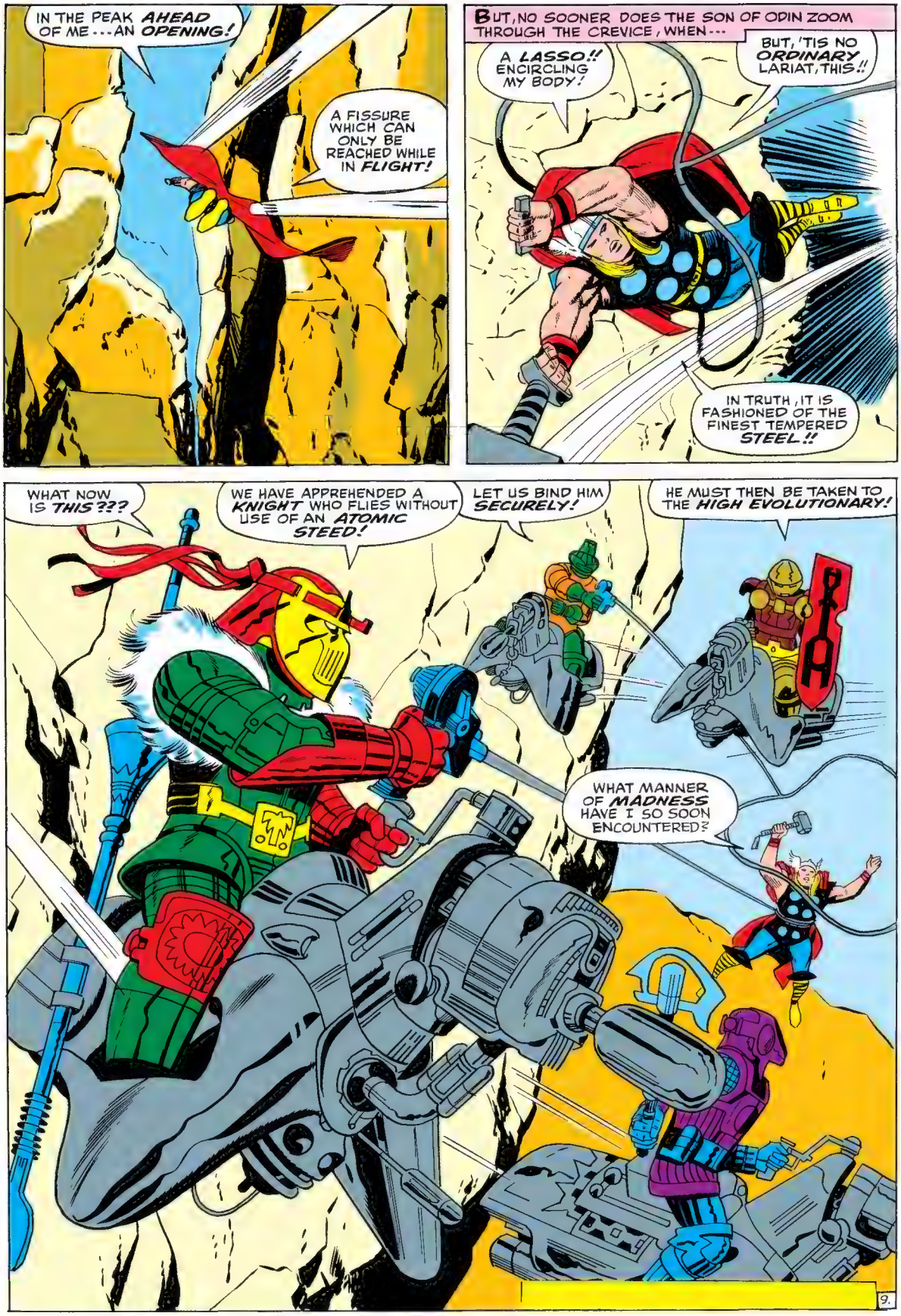
MEN LIMPING WEAKLY TOWARDS THE VILLAGE! WHAT CATASTROPHE CAN HAVE BEFALLEN THEM?
I MUST NOW DESCEND! PERHAPS THEY HAVE SEEN THE ONE I SEEK!

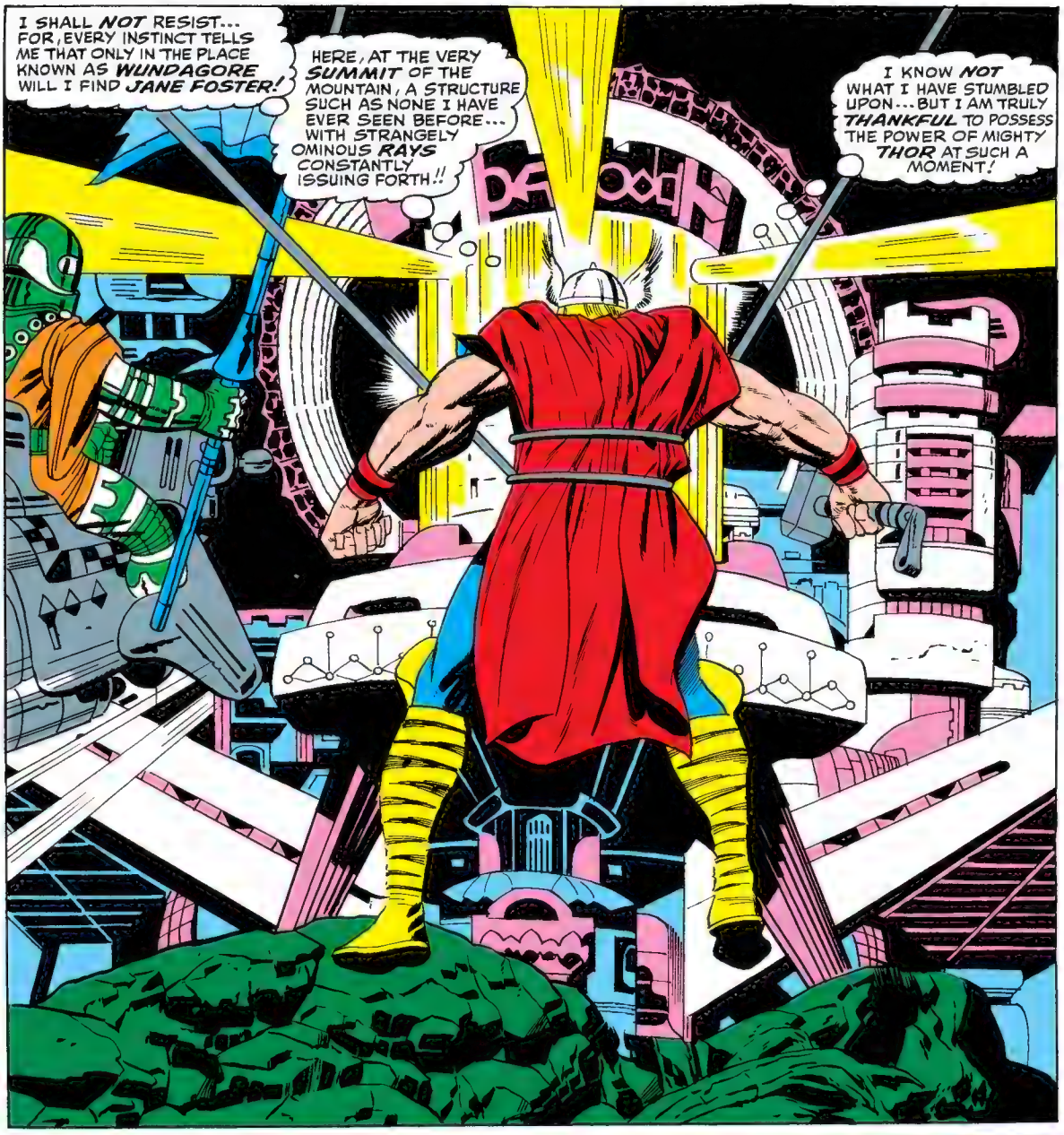

HOLD, FLEEING MORTALS! 'TIS THE THUNDER GOD WHO SPEAKS!
RUN?? AFTER THE DRUBBING WE TOOK? I COULDN'T RUN...FOR ANY-THING!
RUN! IT MUST BE ANOTHER OF THOSE THINGS FROM ABOVE!

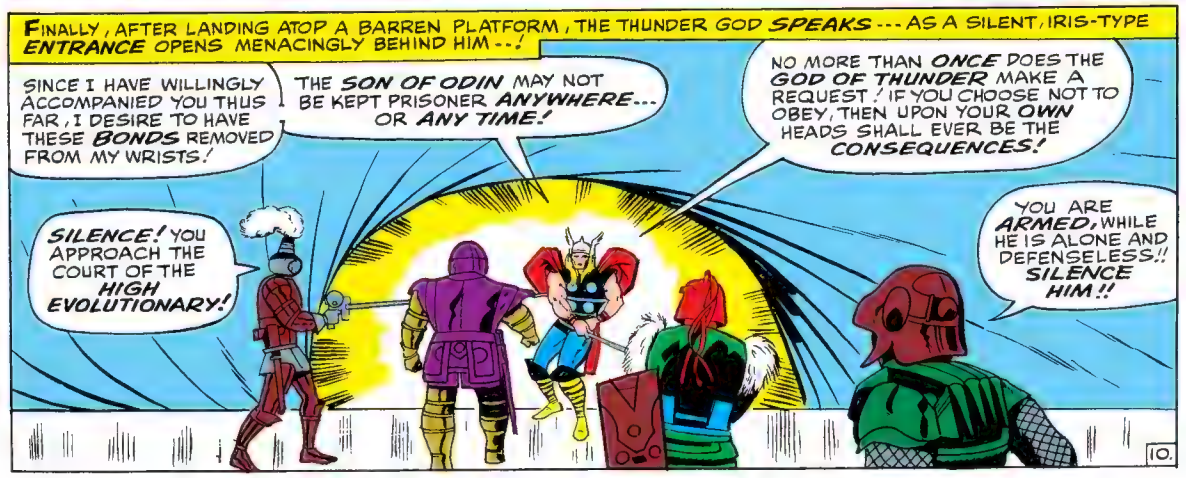
I DO NOT FATHOM YOUR WORDS! WHAT THINGS FROM ABOVE HAVE ATTACKED YOU?
THEY...CALLED THEMSELVES... SOMETHING LIKE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE!! I SAW ONE OF THEM...WHEN HIS HELMET SHOOK LOOSE!! IT..IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!!
YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES! WHAT IS NOT POSSIBLE??
NO! I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT! I CAN'T! I CAN'T!!

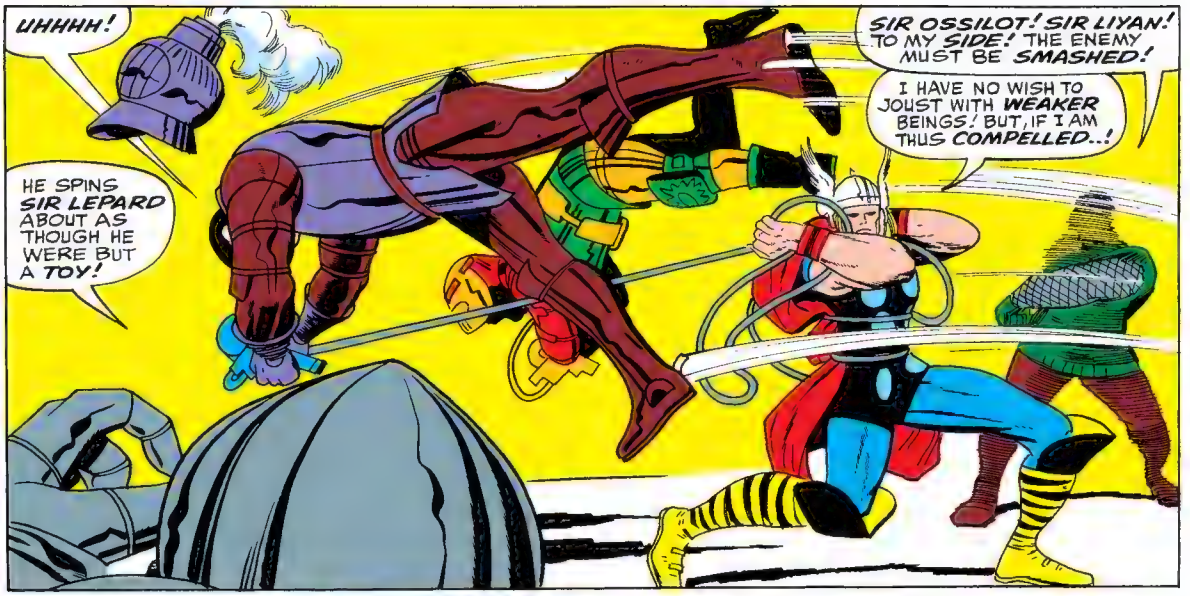
THERE IS NO MORE TO BE GAINED BY INTERROGATING SUCH COWARDLY CREATURES AS THEY!
AND YET... WHAT MADE THEM AS THEY ARE? IT IS AS THOUGH THEIR EYES BEHELD A SIGHT WHICH THEIR MINDS COULD NOT COMPREHEND!

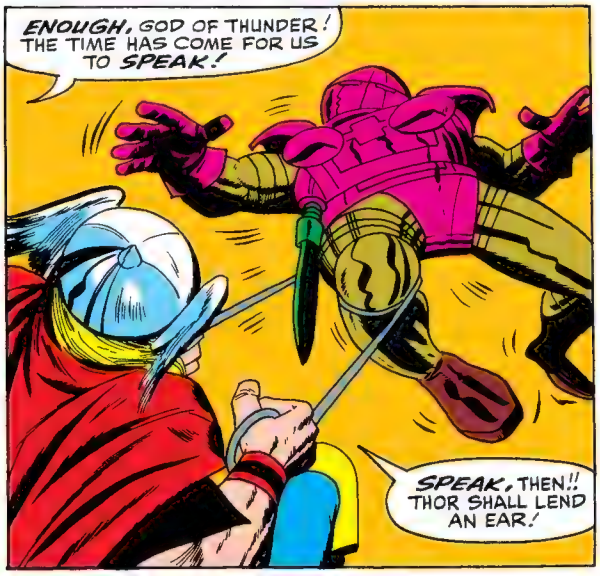

YONDER MOUNTAINS MUST SURELY HOLD THE SECRET!
AND SO, 'TIS THERE THE THUNDER GOD MUST FLY!!


IN THE PEAK AHEAD OF ME---AN OPENING!
A FISSURE WHICH CAN ONLY BE REACHED WHILE IN FLIGHT!
BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE SON OF ODIN ZOOM THROUGH THE CREVICE, WHEN---
A LASSO!! ENCIRCLING MY BODY!
BUT, 'TIS NO ORDINARY LARIAT, THIS!!
IN TRUTH, IT IS FASHIONED OF THE FINEST TEMPERED STEEL!!
WHAT NOW IS THIS???
WE HAVE APPREHENDED A KNIGHT WHO FLIES WITHOUT USE OF AN ATOMIC STEED!
LET US BIND HIM SECURELY!
HE MUST THEN BE TAKEN TO THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!
WHAT MANNER OF MADNESS HAVE I SO SOON ENCOUNTERED?

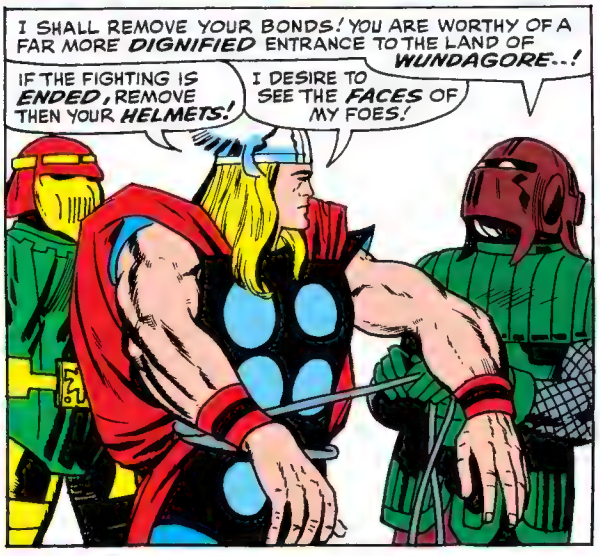

I SHALL NOT RESIST... FOR, EVERY INSTINCT TELLS ME THAT ONLY IN THE PLACE KNOWN AS WUNDAGORE WILL I FIND JANE FOSTER!
HERE, AT THE VERY SUMMIT OF THE MOUNTAIN, A STRUCTURE SUCH AS NONE I HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE... WITH STRANGELY OMINOUS RAYS CONSTANTLY ISSUING FORTH!!
I KNOW NOT WHAT I HAVE STUMBLED UPON... BUT I AM TRULY THANKFUL TO POSSESS THE POWER OF MIGHTY THOR AT SUCH A MOMENT!

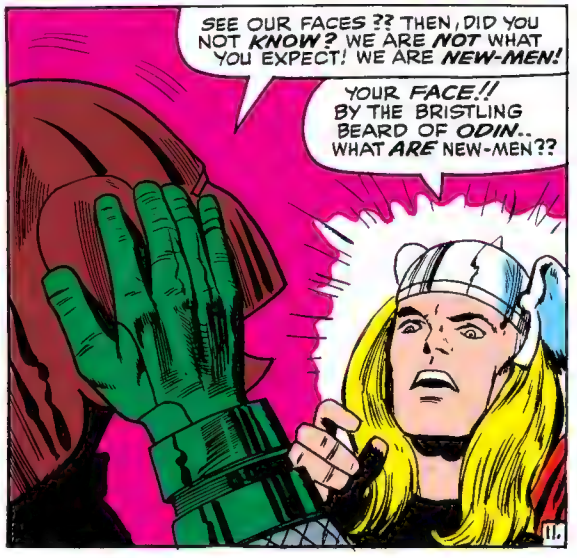

FINALLY, AFTER LANDING ATOP A BARREN PLATFORM, THE THUNDER GOD SPEAKS --- AS A SILENT, IRIS-TYPE ENTRANCE OPENS MENACINGLY BEHIND HIM --!
SINCE I HAVE WILLINGLY ACCOMPANIED YOU THUS FAR, I DESIRE TO HAVE THESE BONDS REMOVED FROM MY WRISTS!
THE SON OF ODIN MAY NOT BE KEPT PRISONER ANYWHERE... OR ANY TIME!
NO MORE THAN ONCE DOES THE GOD OF THUNDER MAKE A REQUEST! IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO OBEY, THEN UPON YOUR OWN HEADS SHALL EVER BE THE CONSEQUENCES!
SILENCE! YOU APPROACH THE COURT OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!
YOU ARE ARMED, WHILE HE IS ALONE AND DEFENSELESS!! SILENCE HIM!!


UHHHH!
HE SPINS SIR LEPARD ABOUT AS THOUGH HE WERE BUT A TOY!
SIR OSSILOT! SIR LIYAN! TO MY SIDE! THE ENEMY MUST BE SMASHED!
I HAVE NO WISH TO JOUST WITH WEAKER BEINGS! BUT, IF I AM THUS COMPELLED..!

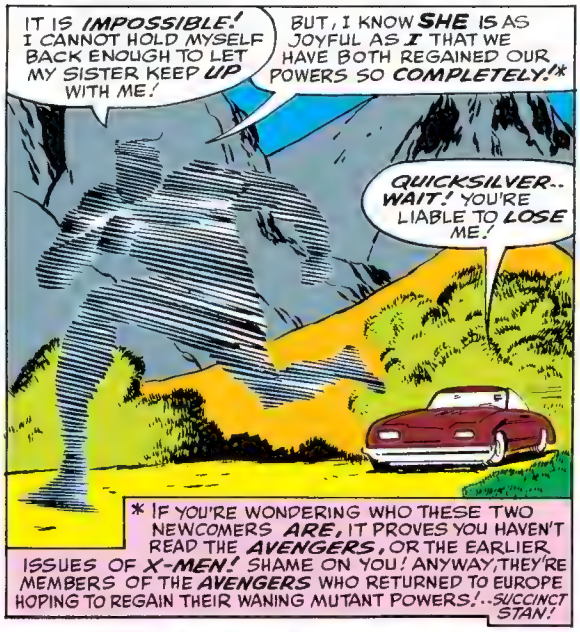

ENOUGH, GOD OF THUNDER! THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO SPEAK!
SPEAK, THEN!! THOR SHALL LEND AN EAR!

ALL OF YOU... BEATEN BY ONE INTRUDER! THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY SHALL HEAR OF THIS!
ON YOUR FEET!! THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS... BUT TOO FEW ANSWERS!
YOU MUST REMEMBER.. HE IS NO MERE HUMAN!

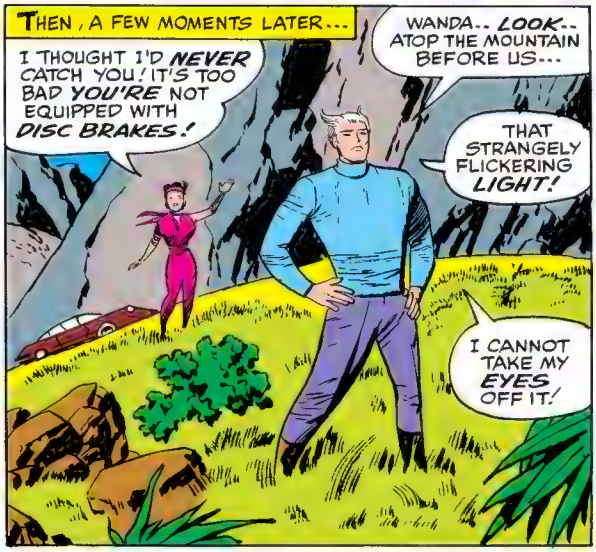

I SHALL REMOVE YOUR BONDS! YOU ARE WORTHY OF A FAR MORE DIGNIFIED ENTRANCE TO THE LAND OF WUNDAGORE..!
IF THE FIGHTING IS ENDED, REMOVE THEN YOUR HELMETS!
I DESIRE TO SEE THE FACES OF MY FOES!

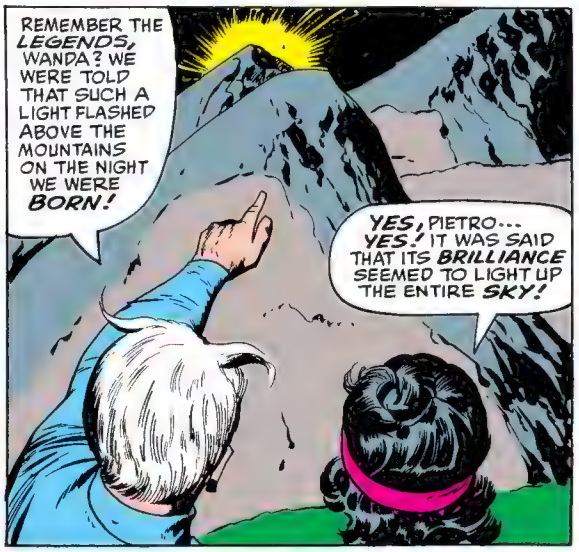

SEE OUR FACES ?? THEN, DID YOU NOT KNOW? WE ARE NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT! WE ARE NEW-MEN!
YOUR FACE!! BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN.. WHAT ARE NEW-MEN??

FEAR NOT, FRANTIC ONE! WE SHALL HAVE THE ANSWER TO THOR'S QUESTION IN DUE TIME! BUT FIRST, LET'S VISIT A VALLEY JUST BELOW THE MACABRE MOUNTAIN, WHERE WE FIND...
IF YOU OUTRUN MY LAMBORGHINI 330 GT, PIETRO, I'LL NEVER TALK TO YOU AGAIN!
DON'T WORRY, WANDA! I'LL PROMISE TO RUN ONLY AT HALF-SPEED!

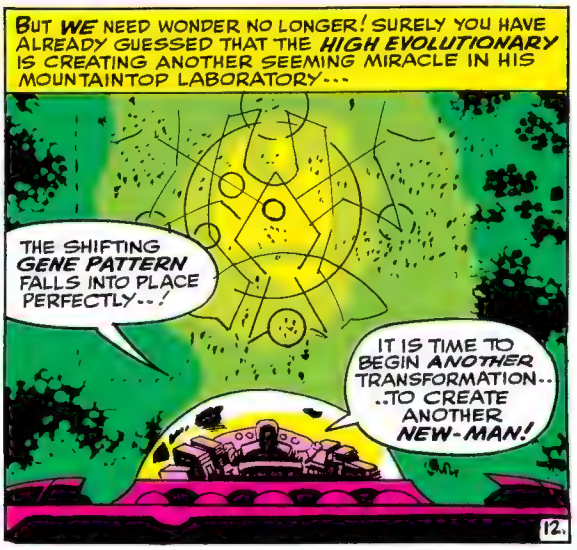

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! I CANNOT HOLD MYSELF BACK ENOUGH TO LET MY SISTER KEEP UP WITH ME!
BUT, I KNOW SHE IS AS JOYFUL AS I THAT WE HAVE BOTH REGAINED OUR POWERS SO COMPLETELY!*
QUICKSILVER.. WAIT! YOU'RE LIABLE TO LOSE ME!

* IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHO THESE TWO NEWCOMERS ARE, IT PROVES YOU HAVEN'T READ THE AVENGERS, OR THE EARLIER ISSUES OF X-MEN! SHAME ON YOU! ANYWAY, THEY'RE MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS WHO RETURNED TO EUROPE HOPING TO REGAIN THEIR WANING MUTANT POWERS!..SUCCINCT STAN!


THEN, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER CATCH YOU! IT'S TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT EQUIPPED WITH DISC BRAKES!
WANDA.. LOOK.. ATOP THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE US...
THAT STRANGELY FLICKERING LIGHT!
I CANNOT TAKE MY EYES OFF IT!

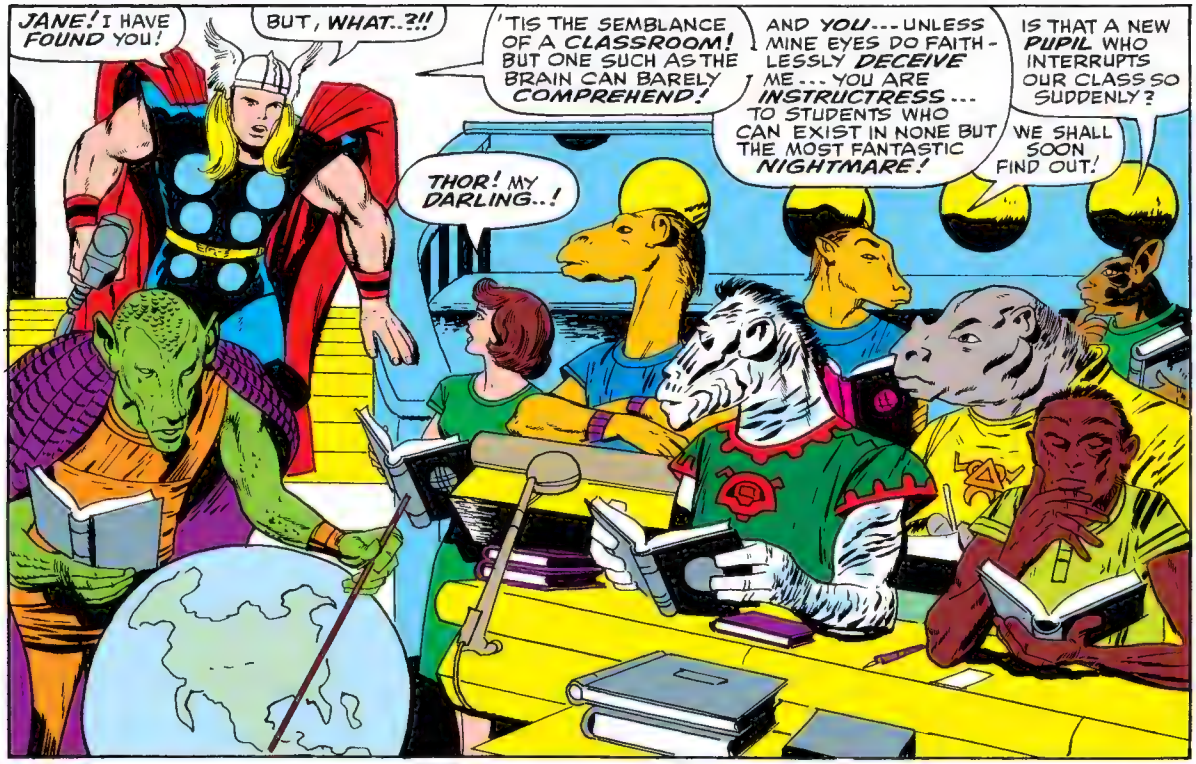

REMEMBER THE LEGENDS, WANDA? WE WERE TOLD THAT SUCH A LIGHT FLASHED ABOVE THE MOUNTAINS ON THE NIGHT WE WERE BORN!
YES, PIETRO... YES! IT WAS SAID THAT ITS BRILLIANCE SEEMED TO LIGHT UP THE ENTIRE SKY!

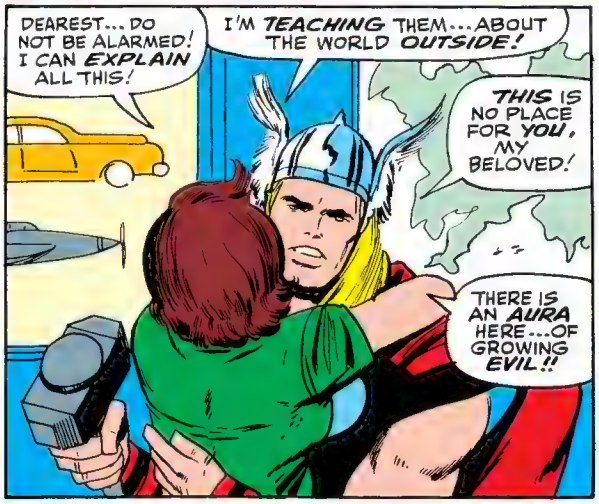
DO YOU THINK..?
CAN IT BE POSSIBLE THAT OUR OWN MUTANT-TYPE POWERS ARE IN SOME WAY RELATED TO... THAT??
I DO NOT KNOW, WANDA! AND YET...A NAME ECHOES IN MY BRAIN...
I HAVE HEARD STRANGE TALES OF THE MIRACLE LAND OF... WUNDA-GORE! NOW, I WONDER--?

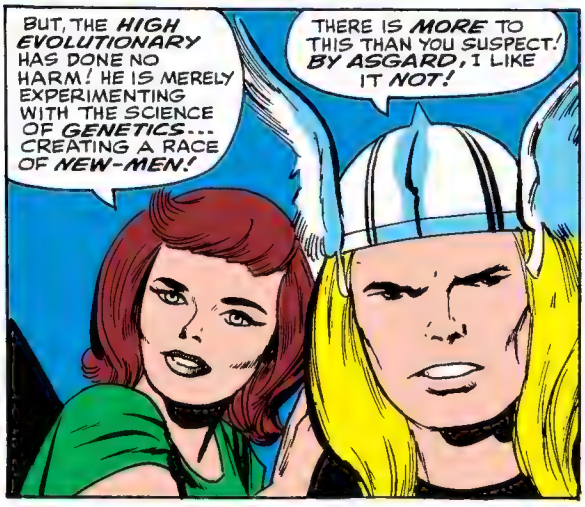

BUT WE NEED WONDER NO LONGER! SURELY YOU HAVE ALREADY GUESSED THAT THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY IS CREATING ANOTHER SEEMING MIRACLE IN HIS MOUNTAINTOP LABORATORY...
THE SHIFTING GENE PATTERN FALLS INTO PLACE PERFECTLY--!
IT IS TIME TO BEGIN ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION.. ..TO CREATE ANOTHER NEW-MAN!

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I WORKED WITH A SUBJECT *WOLF!*
HIS BASIC INHERENT *SAVAGERY* IS POSSIBLY THE GREATEST OF ANY CREATURE ON EARTH!
THEREFORE, THE RESULT SHOULD PROVE MOST... INTERESTING!
*NOW*... HIS BODY BEGINS TO ACHIEVE *TEMPORAL MOTION!*
HIS *GENES* ARE ALREADY *RESHIFTING*..!
ALL THESE YEARS... ALL THESE CHANGES.. AND NEVER A *FAILURE!*
I AM ACCOMPLISHING... IN *ONE* BRIEF EXPERIMENT, WHAT *NATURE* WOULD TAKE A *MILLION CENTURIES* TO ACHIEVE!
WHAT IS *THIS?* THE EMERGENCY *ALARM!* WHO WOULD DARE DISTURB ME *NOW?!!*
BZZZZZ
AN *OUTSIDER!!* HERE IN THE SACRED *GENETIC CHAMBER!!*
*FORGIVE US,* MASTER! WE COULD NOT *RESTRAIN* HIM!
THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!!* THEN, 'TIS *YOU* I SEEK!
13

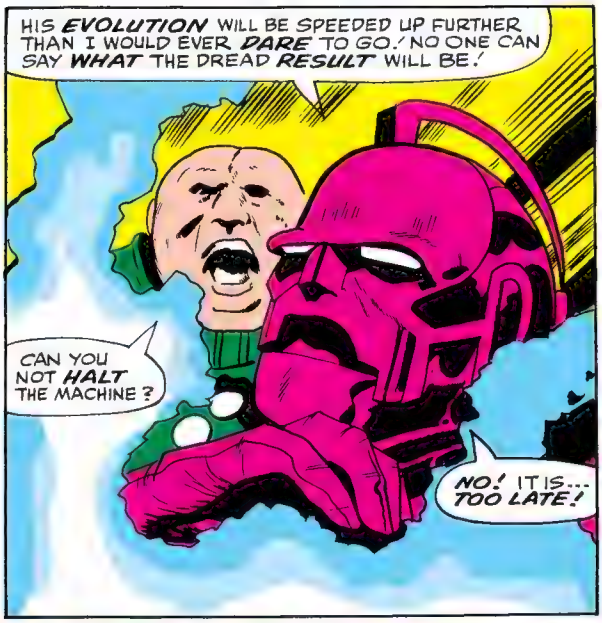
THIS INTRUSION IS UNFORGIVEABLE!! WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU HERE? SPEAK--- WHILE YOU STILL MAY!
HE REFERS TO HIMSELF AS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER--- SON OF ODIN, MASTER!
HIS POWER IS GREATER THAN ANY WE HAVE EVER BEHELD --- SAVE FOR YOURS, MASTER!
HE CLAIMS HE SEEKS THE FEMALE --SHE WHO IS CALLED JANE FOSTER!
IF SHE BE HERE, NO POWER ON EARTH SHALL KEEP ME FROM HER SIDE!
YOUR MELODRAMATIC DISPLAY OF EMOTION DOES NOT IMPRESS ME! SHE IS THERE-- IN WING TWO! GO TO HER!
I, WHO HAVE BECOME THE SUPERIOR OF NATURE HERSELF, CANNOT BE CONCERNED WITH SUCH PALTRY MATTERS!
THE SUPERIOR OF NATURE? NEVER!
WING 2
GO, FOOL!
TRULY, THIS PLACE SEEMS TINGED WITH MADNESS!
BUT, MY FIRST CONCERN IS FINDING THE ONE I LOVE! AND, WOE TO ANY WHO ATTEMPT TO DETER ME!
THUD!
SLAM!
14


JANE! I HAVE FOUND YOU!
BUT, WHAT..?!!
'TIS THE SEMBLANCE OF A CLASSROOM! BUT ONE SUCH AS THE BRAIN CAN BARELY COMPREHEND!
AND YOU--- UNLESS MINE EYES DO FAITHLESSLY DECEIVE ME--- YOU ARE INSTRUCTRESS--- TO STUDENTS WHO CAN EXIST IN NONE BUT THE MOST FANTASTIC NIGHTMARE!
IS THAT A NEW PUPIL WHO INTERRUPTS OUR CLASS SO SUDDENLY?
WE SHALL SOON FIND OUT!
THOR! MY DARLING..!

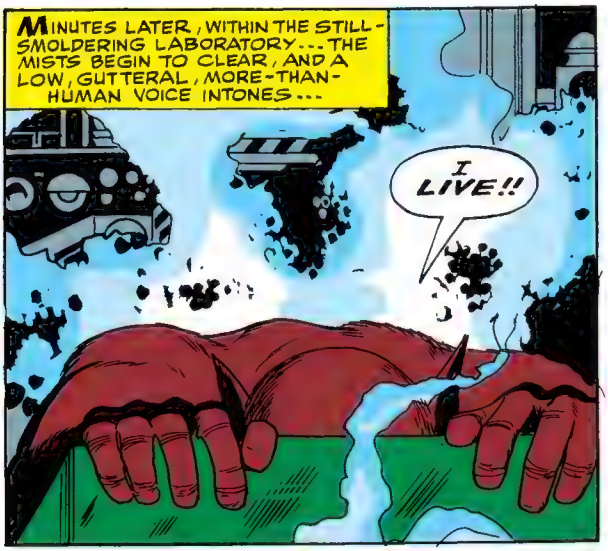

DEAREST... DO NOT BE ALARMED! I CAN EXPLAIN ALL THIS!
I'M TEACHING THEM---ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU, MY BELOVED!
THERE IS AN AURA HERE---OF GROWING EVIL!!


BUT, THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAS DONE NO HARM! HE IS MERELY EXPERIMENTING WITH THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS--- CREATING A RACE OF NEW-MEN!
THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN YOU SUSPECT! BY ASGARD, I LIKE IT NOT!

AND, EVEN AS THOR UTTERS HIS FATEFULLY PROPHETIC WORDS---
I LEFT MY EVOLUTIONARY RAY UNATTENDED FOR TOO LONG!
NOW, THE VERY DEADLINESS OF MY OWN RAYS PREVENTS ME FROM RETURNING TO MY SUBJECT!
IT IS THE FAULT OF THE ONE CALLED THOR! IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS ACCURSED INTRUSION!!
BOOM!
MASTER! WHAT OF THE WOLF! HE IS STILL WITHIN..!!


HIS EVOLUTION WILL BE SPEEDED UP FURTHER THAN I WOULD EVER DARE TO GO! NO ONE CAN SAY WHAT THE DREAD RESULT WILL BE!
CAN YOU NOT HALT THE MACHINE?
NO! IT IS... TOO LATE!

SHOULD MY BESTIAL SUBJECT SURVIVE, HE WILL BE FAR MORE THAN A NEW-MAN... FAR MORE THAN A WOLF WHOSE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WAS SPEEDED UP!!
IN POINT OF FACT, HE WILL BE THE ULTIMATE END OF EVOLUTION ... A COMBINATION OF THE SUPREME MAN... COUPLED WITH THE SUPREME BEAST!!
HIS POWER WILL BE TOO AWESOME TO IMAGINE!! AND, IF HE SHOULD BE EVIL...!


MINUTES LATER, WITHIN THE STILL-SMOLDERING LABORATORY... THE MISTS BEGIN TO CLEAR, AND A LOW, GUTTERAL, MORE-THAN-HUMAN VOICE INTONES...
I LIVE!!

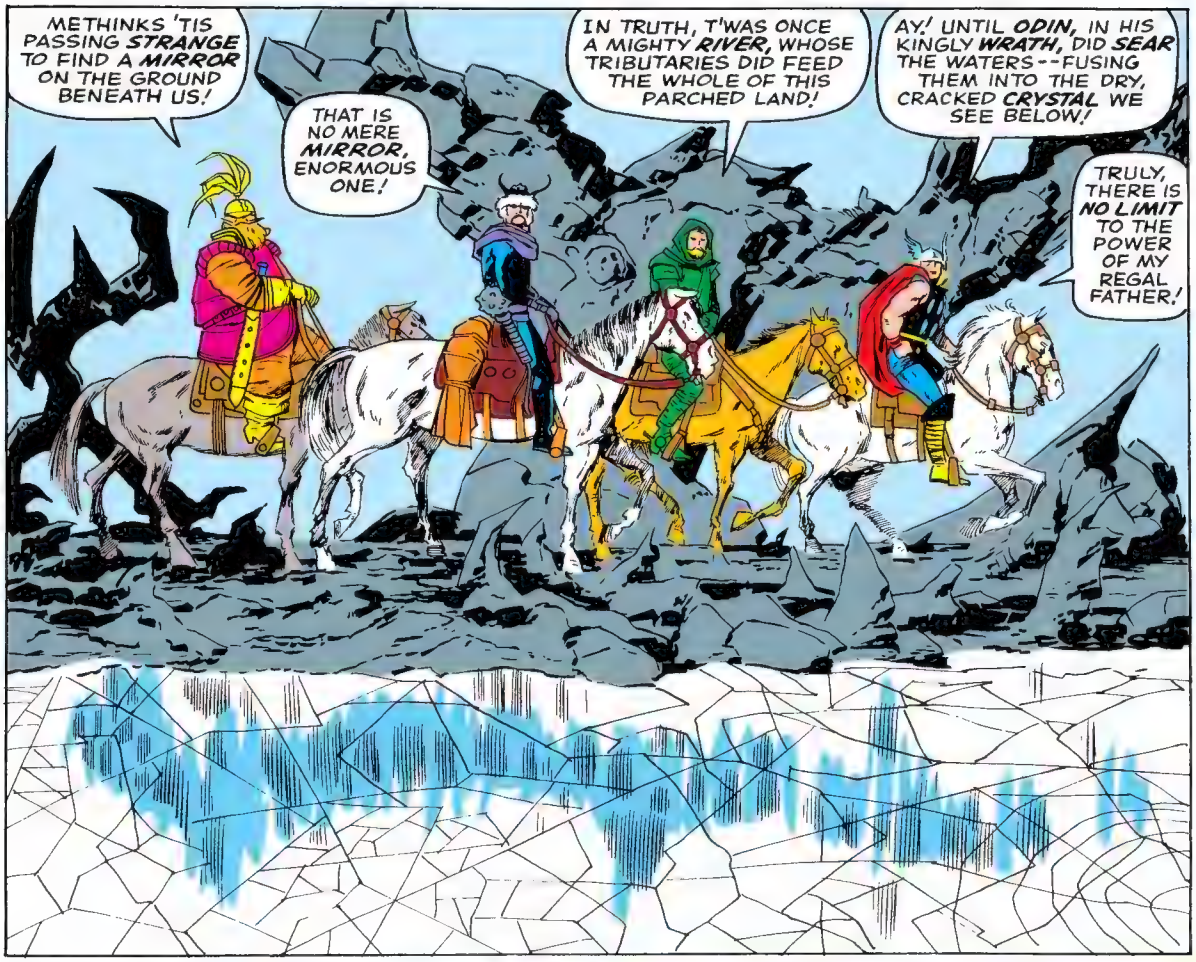
I FEEL!!
AND MORE...
I HATE!!

AUTOMATICALLY, WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, THE BROODING MAN-BEAST ALLOWS HIS MIND TO PROBE RIGHT THROUGH THE CONCRETE WALL...
I SENSE LIFE NEARBY!!

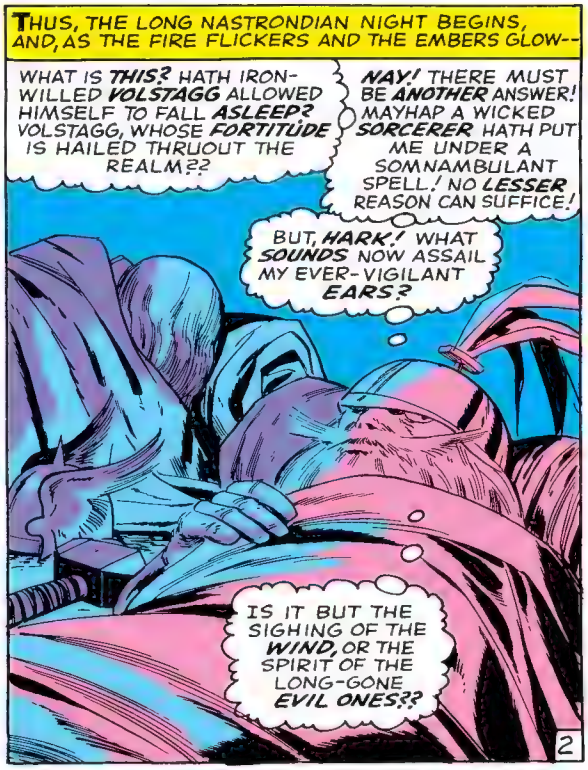
AND WHATEVER LIVES, MUST BE MY ENEMY... MUST BE DESTROYED!
FOLLOW ME! I SHALL LEAD YOU FROM THIS PLACE... WHILE THERE IS TIME!
BUT THEN, THE FLEEING DUO REALIZE...

...THEIR TIME HAS FINALLY... RUN OUT!!
WE'RE BEING WATCHED! I CAN FEEL IT!
IT IS TOO LATE FOR FLIGHT! THE DANGER IS UPON US!
NEXT: THE FUTURE MAN-BEAST!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
"WHEN SPEAKS THE DRAGON!"
AT THE FARTHEST REACHES OF ASGARD, LIES THE FORBIDDEN DOMAIN KNOWN AS NASTROND... A LAND WHERE NOTHING LIVES--NOT A TREE--NOT A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS--NOT THE HUMBLEST INSECT! IT IS HERE, TO NASTROND, THAT MIGHTY THOR AND HIS COMPANIONS RIDE--
IN THIS LAND ONCE LIVED AN EVIL RACE WHO DARED DEFY REGAL ODIN HIMSELF!
SO MONUMENTAL WAS ODIN'S WRATH, THAT HE LAID WASTE THE COUNTRY-SIDE, SO THAT NOTHING HERE COULD LIVE!
NOW, THESE LONG YEARS AFTER, HE BIDS US INSPECT THIS LAND AND SURVEY HIS AWESOME HANDIWORK!
SO COME YE--FANDRAL, THE DASHING--HOGUN, THE GRIM--AND VORACIOUS VOLSTAGG--
LET US COMPLETE YON MISSION AND THEN BEGONE!
A STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY PICTORIAL PRESENTATION
DELINEATED BY: VINCENT COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK
1


METHINKS 'TIS PASSING STRANGE TO FIND A MIRROR ON THE GROUND BENEATH US!
THAT IS NO MERE MIRROR, ENORMOUS ONE!
IN TRUTH, T'WAS ONCE A MIGHTY RIVER, WHOSE TRIBUTARIES DID FEED THE WHOLE OF THIS PARCHED LAND!
AY! UNTIL ODIN, IN HIS KINGLY WRATH, DID SEAR THE WATERS--FUSING THEM INTO THE DRY, CRACKED CRYSTAL WE SEE BELOW!
TRULY, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE POWER OF MY REGAL FATHER!

WE HAVE SEEN ALL THERE IS TO BEHOLD!
THUS, LET US MAKE OUR CAMP, AND REPAIR FOR ASGARD WHEN THE MORROW COMES!
NEVER HAVE I KNOWN A LAND SO FRAUGHT WITH GLOOM--SO HEAVY LADEN WITH AN AIR OF DARK FOREBODING!
SO LONG AS MY BLADE BE AT MY SIDE, FANDRAL HAS NO TIME FOR SUCH DIRE MUSINGS!
TO SLEEP THEN, ALL!
VALOROUS VOLSTAGG SHALL SERVE AS GUARD, WITH UNBLINKING EYE--AND ETERNAL VIGIL!


THUS, THE LONG NASTRONDIAN NIGHT BEGINS, AND, AS THE FIRE FLICKERS AND THE EMBERS GLOW--
WHAT IS THIS? HATH IRON-WILLED VOLSTAGG ALLOWED HIMSELF TO FALL ASLEEP? VOLSTAGG, WHOSE FORTITUDE IS HAILED THRUOUT THE REALM??
NAY! THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ANSWER! MAYHAP A WICKED SORCERER HATH PUT ME UNDER A SOMNAMBULANT SPELL! NO LESSER REASON CAN SUFFICE!
BUT, HARK! WHAT SOUNDS NOW ASSAIL MY EVER-VIGILANT EARS?
IS IT BUT THE SIGHING OF THE WIND, OR THE SPIRIT OF THE LONG-GONE EVIL ONES??

VOLLLLLLSTAG! HEAR ME, VOLSTAGG! MAKE THOU NO NOISE--NO SOUND!
MY NAME! I AM BEING SUMMONED!
BUT, BY WHOM ??
IN THIS LAND OF DEATH, AND DESOLATION--WHO CAN IT BE??
AH HA! I HAVE CAUGHT YOU!
NONE CAN ESCAPE THE WATCHFUL EYE OF VOLSTAGG WHEN HE DEVOTES HIS FEARSOME TALENTS TO GUARD DUTY!
TRUE, MIGHTY WARRIOR--TRUE! BUT, WAS IT NOT I WHO AWOKE THEE?
DIDST THOU THINK I SLEPT? KNOW THEE NOT T'WAS BUT A RUSE, TO ENTRAP THEE!
BE THAT AS IT MAY--I HAVE AN OFFER TO MAKE THEE!
FAUGHH! WHAT CAN SUCH AS THOU OFFER THE WELL-FAMED VOLSTAGG?
ATTEND MY WORDS, MOUNTAINOUS ONE--AND THOU SHALT LEARN--!
I CAN LEAD THEE TO THE CAVE OF THE ANCIENTS--WHERE NO ASGARDIAN HATH EVER TROD! THERE, THOU WILT FIND KNOWLEDGE FIT ONLY FOR THE GREATEST OF WARRIORS!
TRULY THOU ART A WISE AND PROFICIENT JUDGE OF CHARACTER!
LEAD ON, ANCIENT ONE--ALTHOUGH THERE CAN HARDLY BE KNOWLEDGE ANYWHERE WHICH I DO NOT ALREADY POSSESS!
WHEN THE OTHERS AWAKE, WHAT RARE SPORT IT SHALL BE TO REGALE THEM WITH TALES OF YON LITTLE ADVENTURE!
THAT WHICH AWAITS THEE IN THE CAVE OF THE ANCIENTS SHALL COVER THEE WITH GLORY EVERLASTING!
'TIS ONLY FITTING FOR ONE WITH THE COURAGE AND WISDOM OF VOLSTAGG!
3

THAT GIGANTIC CAVERN BEFORE US--METHINKS WE HAVE FOUND OUR DESTINATION!
IN TRUTH, 'TWAS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE RULER OF THIS LAND--BEFORE A VENGEFUL ODIN BANISHED ALL AND SUNDRY!
ONE QUESTION YET PERPLEXES ME! IF ALL WERE BANISHED--AND NO LIFE HERE ENDURES --FROM WHENCE IS IT THAT THOU HAST COME??
BUT, BEFORE THE GENEROUSLY-PROPORTIONED WARRIOR'S GUIDE CAN ANSWER HIM--
A RADIANT POOL-- WHERE DEADLY RAYS OF SHIMMERING ENERGY FEED UPON THEMSELVES ETERNALLY!
STAND YE BACK, AGED ONE! 'TIS DEATH TO VENTURE CLOSER!
THE LAST KING OF NASTROND LIKEWISE FEARED YON RAYS-- EVEN AS THOU, GELATINOUS ONE!
BUT, HE WAS TO LEARN THAT THEY WERE NOT DEADLY!!
INSTEAD, LONG YEARS OF EXPOSURE CHANGED THE FORM OF THE ANCIENT RULER--AND BESTOWED UPON HIM A MATCHLESS POWER--
THE POWER TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF AN AGED MAN!!
'TIS A TRAP! TRUSTING VOLSTAGG HATH BEEN SHAMEFULLY BETRAYED!
YES, THE RADIANT POOL BROUGHT A GREAT CHANGE TO THE ANCIENT KING'S BODY!! IT TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A CREATURE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SURVIVE IN THIS DEADLY LAND!
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?? A MONSTROUS HAND--LARGER BY FAR THAN ALL OF VOLSTAGG!!
4

BEHOLD FAFNIR, THOU SNIVELLING, QUAKING JELLY-FISH OF A WARRIOR!!
I AM HE THAT WAS THE ANCIENT KING!
I AM HE WHOM ODIN--ACCURSED BE HIS NAME--STRIPPED OF HIS POWER, HIS SUBJECTS, HIS REALM!
FOR UNTOLD AGES HAVE I WAITED HERE--GATHERING NEW STRENGTH, NEW POWER WITH EACH PASSING DAY--
AND, ALWAYS WAITING--HOPING--FOR A VISITATION FROM THE SONS OF ASGARD!
BUT, MY FORTUNE IS GREATER THAN EVER I DARED TO HOPE!
FOR THOR HIMSELF, SON OF ODIN, NOW STRIDES MY LAND--AND I POSSESS A PERFECT HOSTAGE WITH WHICH TO ENTRAP HIM!
NEXT: FAFNIR STRIKES!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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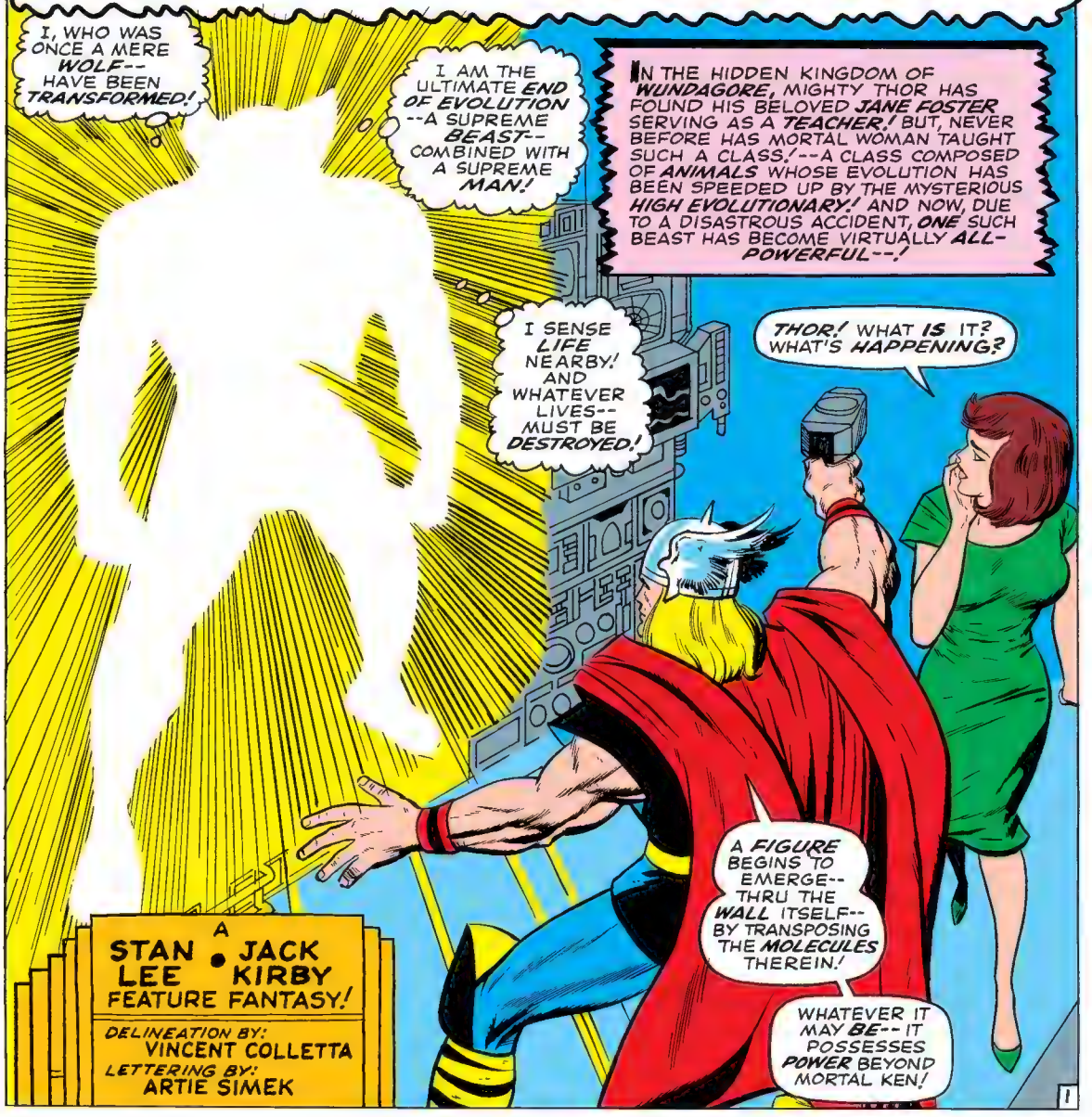
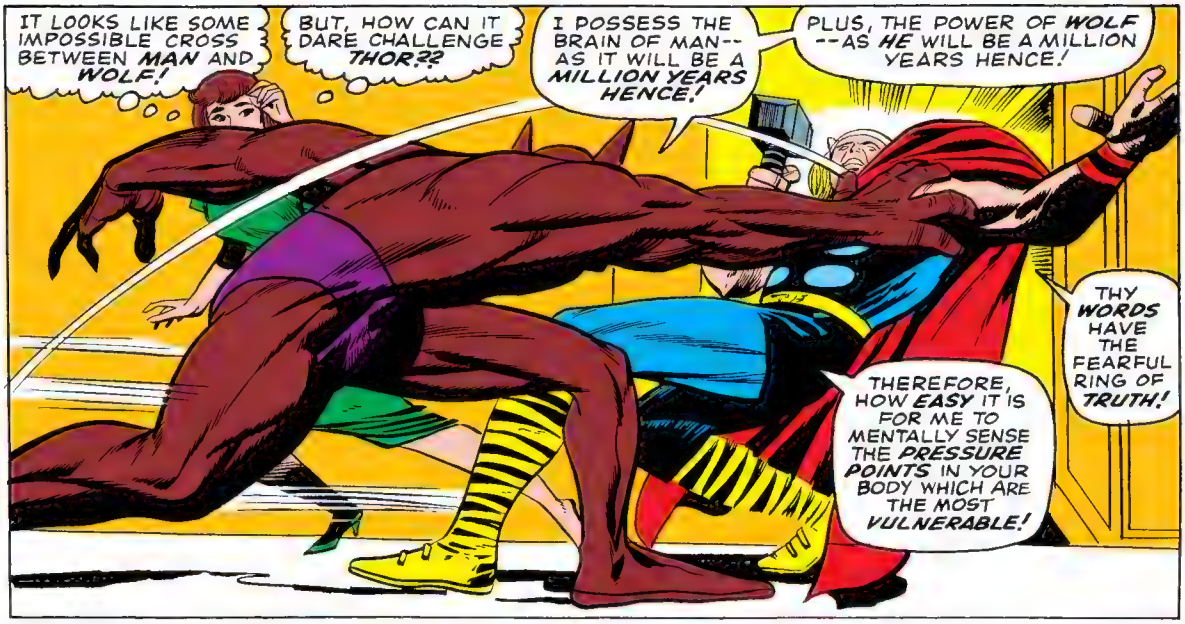
135 DEC
"THE MADDENING MENACE OF THE SUPER-BEAST!"

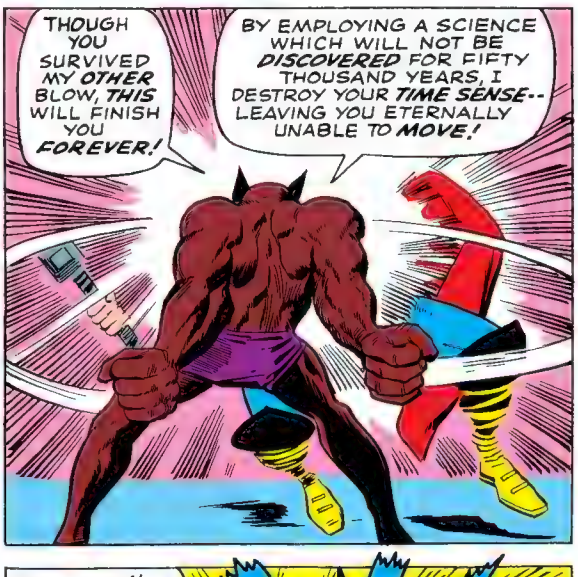
# THE MIGHTY THOR!

## "THE MADDENING MENACE OF THE SUPER-BEAST!"

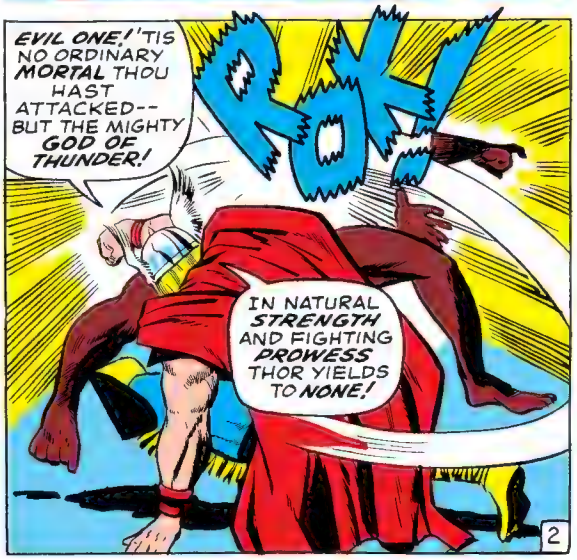

I, WHO WAS ONCE A MERE WOLF-- HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED!
I AM THE ULTIMATE END OF EVOLUTION --A SUPREME BEAST-- COMBINED WITH A SUPREME MAN!
IN THE HIDDEN KINGDOM OF WUNDAGORE, MIGHTY THOR HAS FOUND HIS BELOVED JANE FOSTER SERVING AS A TEACHER! BUT, NEVER BEFORE HAS MORTAL WOMAN TAUGHT SUCH A CLASS!--A CLASS COMPOSED OF ANIMALS WHOSE EVOLUTION HAS BEEN SPEEDED UP BY THE MYSTERIOUS HIGH EVOLUTIONARY! AND NOW, DUE TO A DISASTROUS ACCIDENT, ONE SUCH BEAST HAS BECOME VIRTUALLY ALL-POWERFUL--!
I SENSE LIFE NEARBY! AND WHATEVER LIVES-- MUST BE DESTROYED!
THOR! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
A FIGURE BEGINS TO EMERGE-- THRU THE WALL ITSELF-- BY TRANSPOSING THE MOLECULES THEREIN!
WHATEVER IT MAY BE-- IT POSSESSES POWER BEYOND MORTAL KEN!
A STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY FEATURE FANTASY!
DELINEATION BY: VINCENT COLLETTA
LETTERING BY: ARTIE SIMEK

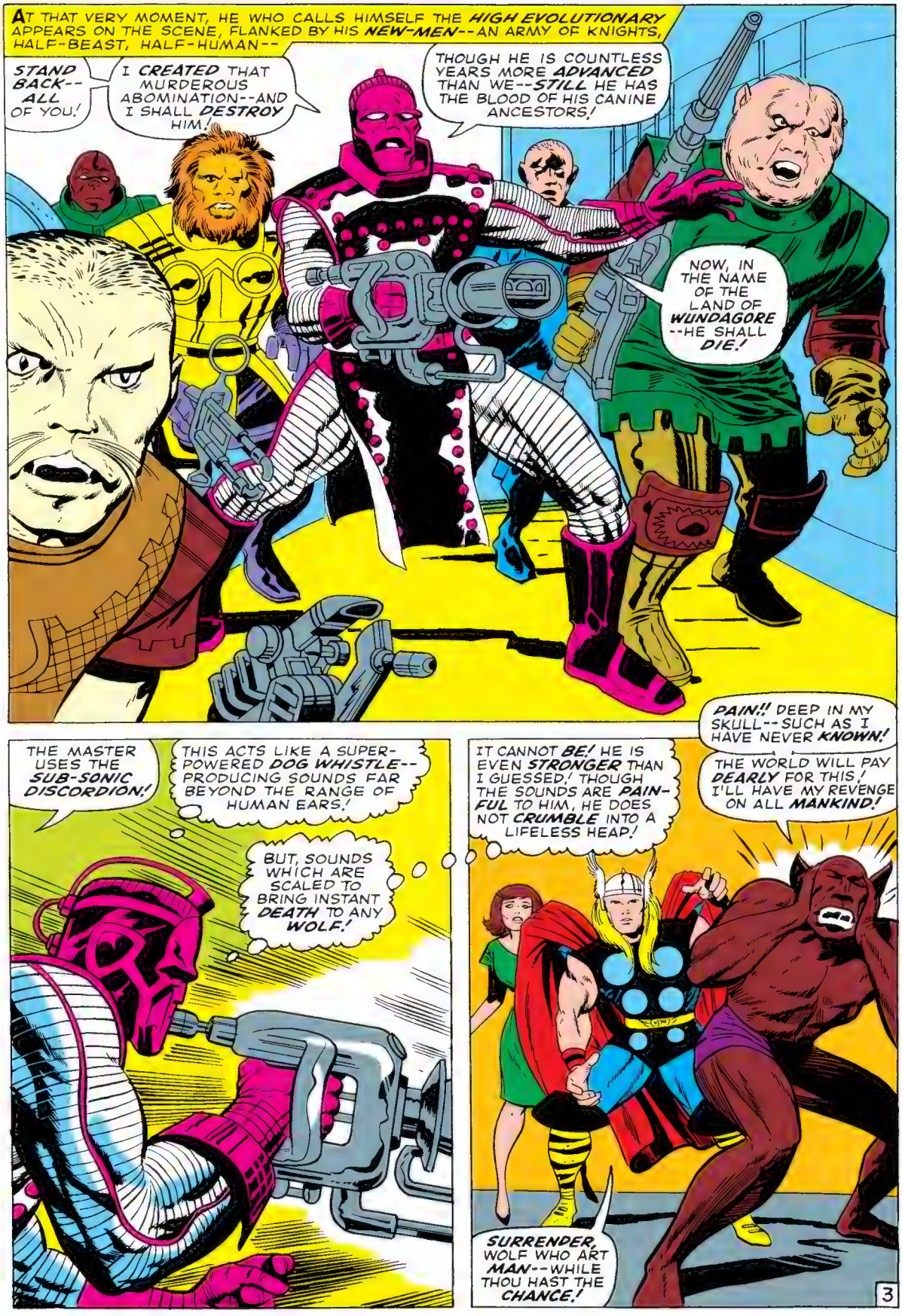

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME IMPOSSIBLE CROSS BETWEEN MAN AND WOLF!
BUT, HOW CAN IT DARE CHALLENGE THOR?!?
I POSSESS THE BRAIN OF MAN--AS IT WILL BE A MILLION YEARS HENCE!
PLUS, THE POWER OF WOLF --AS HE WILL BE A MILLION YEARS HENCE!
THY WORDS HAVE THE FEARFUL RING OF TRUTH!
THEREFORE, HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO MENTALLY SENSE THE PRESSURE POINTS IN YOUR BODY WHICH ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE!

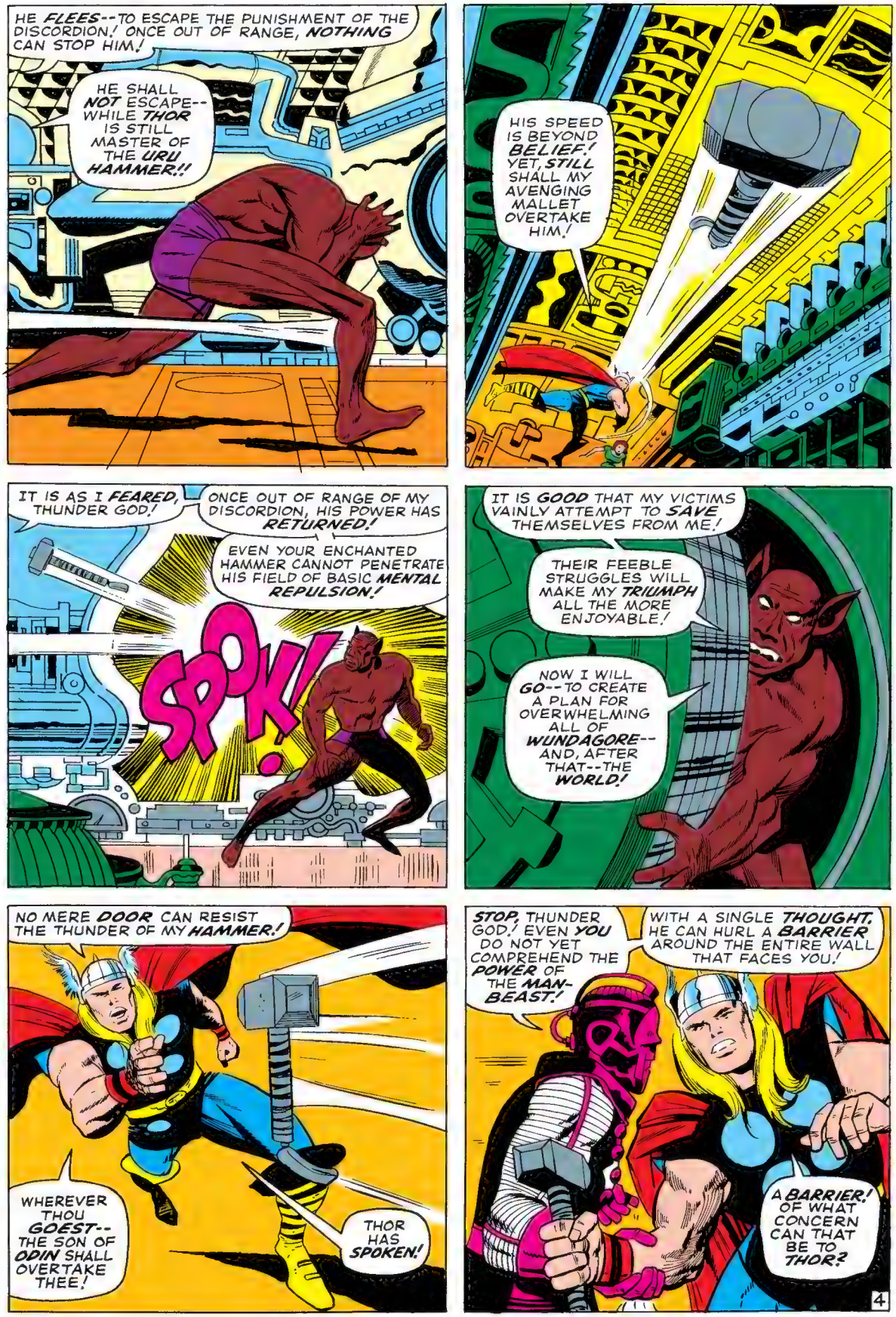
MY KNOWLEDGE OF EVERY FORM OF COMBAT IS A MILLION YEARS MORE ADVANCED THAN YOURS!
A DEADLY KARATE CHOP--YET, ONE THE LIKE OF WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN--NEVER DREAMED!
FTAM!

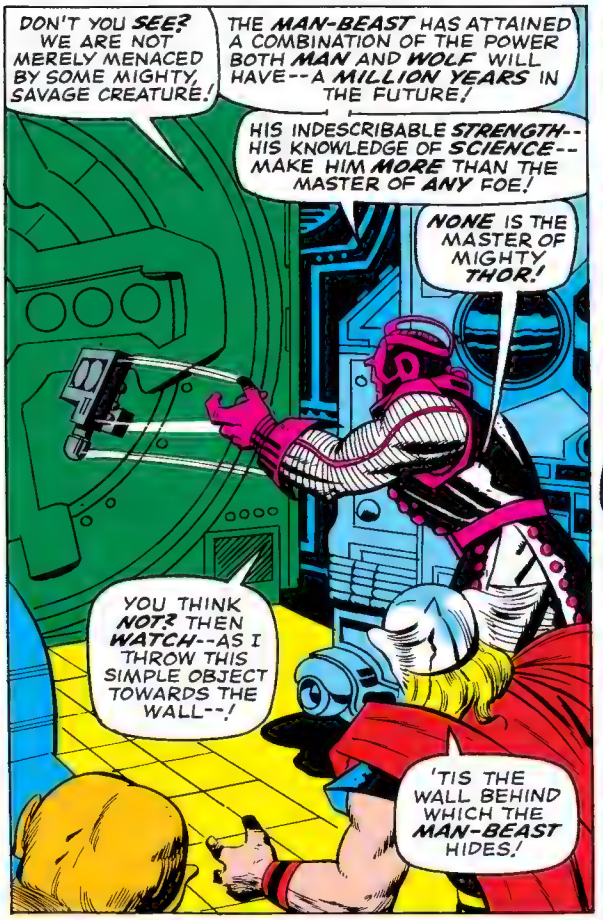

THOUGH YOU SURVIVED MY OTHER BLOW, THIS WILL FINISH YOU FOREVER!
BY EMPLOYING A SCIENCE WHICH WILL NOT BE DISCOVERED FOR FIFTY THOUSAND YEARS, I DESTROY YOUR TIME SENSE--LEAVING YOU ETERNALLY UNABLE TO MOVE!

AND NOW TO ANNIHILATE EVERY OTHER FORM OF LIFE I CAN FIND!
MY INTELLECT MAKES ME SUPREME--AND MY SAVAGE WOLF ANCESTRY MAKES ME THE MOST DEADLY BEING ALIVE!


EVIL ONE! 'TIS NO ORDINARY MORTAL THOU HAST ATTACKED--BUT THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER!
KOK!
IN NATURAL STRENGTH AND FIGHTING PROWESS THOR YIELDS TO NONE!


AT THAT VERY MOMENT, HE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY APPEARS ON THE SCENE, FLANKED BY HIS NEW-MEN--AN ARMY OF KNIGHTS, HALF-BEAST, HALF-HUMAN--
STAND BACK--ALL OF YOU!
I CREATED THAT MURDEROUS ABOMINATION--AND I SHALL DESTROY HIM!
THOUGH HE IS COUNTLESS YEARS MORE ADVANCED THAN WE--STILL HE HAS THE BLOOD OF HIS CANINE ANCESTORS!
NOW, IN THE NAME OF THE LAND OF WUNDAGORE --HE SHALL DIE!
THE MASTER USES THE SUB-SONIC DISCORDION!
THIS ACTS LIKE A SUPER-POWERED DOG WHISTLE--PRODUCING SOUNDS FAR BEYOND THE RANGE OF HUMAN EARS!
BUT, SOUNDS WHICH ARE SCALED TO BRING INSTANT DEATH TO ANY WOLF!
PAIN!! DEEP IN MY SKULL--SUCH AS I HAVE NEVER KNOWN!
IT CANNOT BE! HE IS EVEN STRONGER THAN I GUESSED, THOUGH THE SOUNDS ARE PAINFUL TO HIM, HE DOES NOT CRUMBLE INTO A LIFELESS HEAP!
THE WORLD WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS! I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON ALL MANKIND!
SURRENDER, WOLF WHO ART MAN--WHILE THOU HAST THE CHANCE!
3


HE FLEES--TO ESCAPE THE PUNISHMENT OF THE DISCORDION! ONCE OUT OF RANGE, NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!
HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE--WHILE THOR IS STILL MASTER OF THE URU HAMMER!!
HIS SPEED IS BEYOND BELIEF! YET, STILL SHALL MY AVENGING MALLET OVERTAKE HIM!
IT IS AS I FEARED, THUNDER GOD!
ONCE OUT OF RANGE OF MY DISCORDION, HIS POWER HAS RETURNED!
EVEN YOUR ENCHANTED HAMMER CANNOT PENETRATE HIS FIELD OF BASIC MENTAL REPULSION!
SPOK!
IT IS GOOD THAT MY VICTIMS VAINLY ATTEMPT TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM ME!
THEIR FEEBLE STRUGGLES WILL MAKE MY TRIUMPH ALL THE MORE ENJOYABLE!
NOW I WILL GO--TO CREATE A PLAN FOR OVERWHELMING ALL OF WUNDAGORE--AND, AFTER THAT--THE WORLD!
NO MERE DOOR CAN RESIST THE THUNDER OF MY HAMMER!
WHEREVER THOU GOEST--THE SON OF ODIN SHALL OVERTAKE THEE!
THOR HAS SPOKEN!
STOP, THUNDER GOD! EVEN YOU DO NOT YET COMPREHEND THE POWER OF THE MAN-BEAST!
WITH A SINGLE THOUGHT, HE CAN HURL A BARRIER AROUND THE ENTIRE WALL THAT FACES YOU!
A BARRIER! OF WHAT CONCERN CAN THAT BE TO THOR?
4

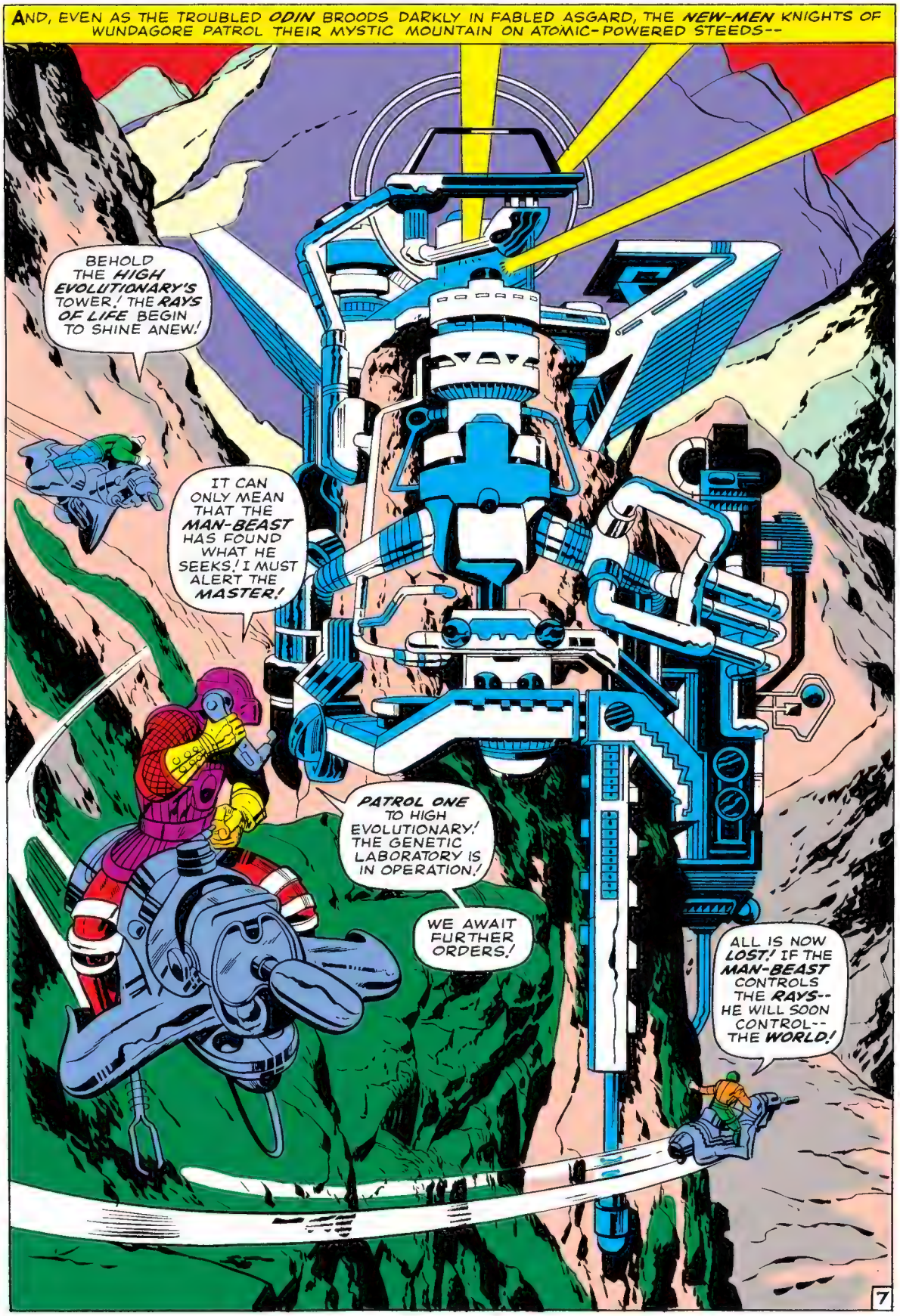

DON'T YOU SEE? WE ARE NOT MERELY MENACED BY SOME MIGHTY, SAVAGE CREATURE!
THE MAN-BEAST HAS ATTAINED A COMBINATION OF THE POWER BOTH MAN AND WOLF WILL HAVE--A MILLION YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
HIS INDESCRIBABLE STRENGTH--HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE--MAKE HIM MORE THAN THE MASTER OF ANY FOE!
NONE IS THE MASTER OF MIGHTY THOR!
YOU THINK NOT? THEN WATCH--AS I THROW THIS SIMPLE OBJECT TOWARDS THE WALL--!
'TIS THE WALL BEHIND WHICH THE MAN-BEAST HIDES!

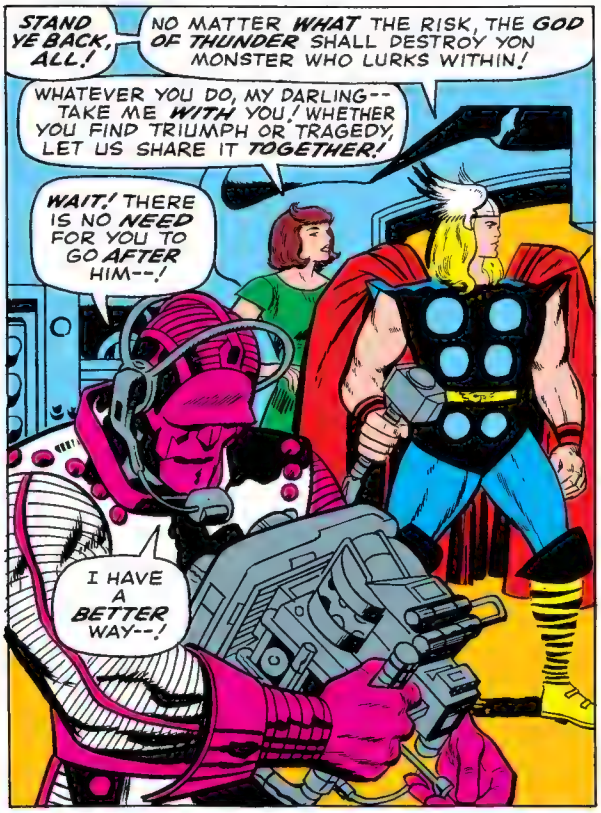
THOU SPAKE THE TRUTH!
VERILY, HE HATH CREATED AN UNSEEN ANTI-MATTER BARRIER WHICH NO POSITIVE ATOMS CAN HOPE TO PENETRATE!
HAD YOU ADVANCED TOWARD THAT WALL--THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT FATE MIGHT HAVE BEFALLEN YOU!
SSH!

BUT, THE WORST IS YET TO BE!
BEHIND THAT WALL IS MY GENETIC LABORATORY--WHICH CONTAINS THE ALL-POWERFUL EVOLUTIONARY RAY! IF HE SHOULD GAIN CONTROL OF THAT RAY--!
HE COULD CREATE HIS OWN RACE OF NEW-MEN--EACH AS SUPREMELY POWERFUL--AS COMPLETELY EVIL--AS HE HIMSELF!
SUCH AN UNSPEAKABLE ACT MUST NEVER COME TO PASS!
BUT--EVEN NOW--IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO STOP HIM!

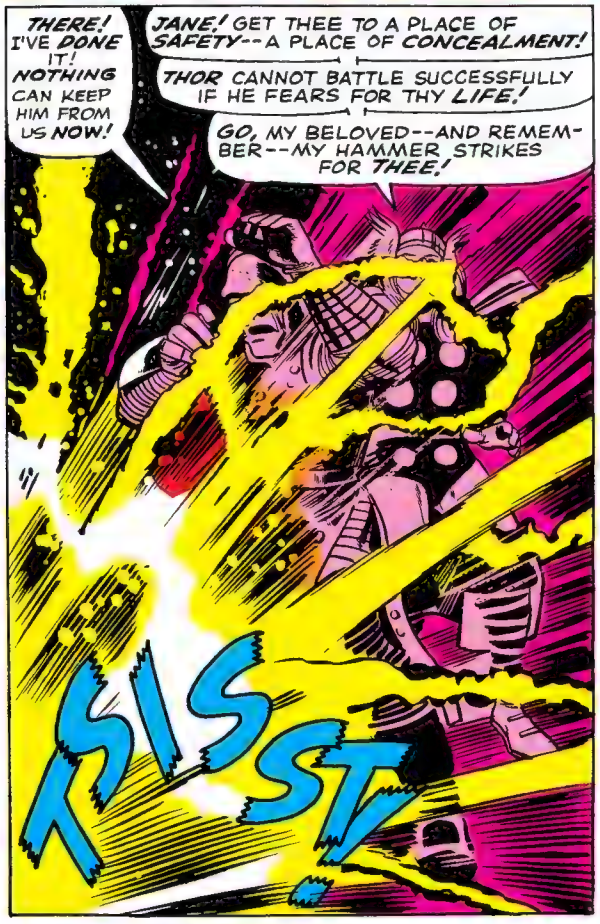
IT IS I WHO AM TO BLAME--AND I ALONE!
I TRIED TO TAMPER WITH NATURAL EVOLUTION--TO CREATE A NEW RACE OF SUPER-BEINGS--MY NEW-MEN, AS I CALLED THEM! I WANTED IT TO BE THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS!
BUT, WITH THE WOLF--I FAILED!
AND, THAT ONE MONUMENTAL FAILURE THREATENS TO BE THE DEATH KNELL OF THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
THOR! IS IT--REALLY THAT SERIOUS?
A FORCE HAS BEEN UNLEASHED THIS DAY--LIKE NONE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CELESTIAL REALM OF ASGARD, THE MONARCH OF ALL HE SURVEYS WITNESSES A SPORTING JOUST WITH LESS THAN FEVERISH ENTHUSIASM...
BALDER THE BRAVE DOTH WIELD HIS TRUNCHEON LIKE A WARRIOR BORN, MY LORD!
YOU DO NOT DEIGN TO ANSWER, SIRE! IS SOMETHING AMISS?
NAY! ALL GOES WELL IN THE UNIVERSE ABOUT US!
AND TRULY, BALDER INDEED DOTH BATTLE WITH A SKILL SECOND TO NONE!
STILL, THE HEART OF ODIN IS HEAVY--AND MY SPIRIT TROUBLED!
I GROW WEARY OF THIS CONTEST! PUT THOU AN END TO IT, NOBLE BALDER!
SKLANG
AS THOU COMMAND, OMNIPOTENCE!
YON VICTOR AWAITS THY APPROBATION, SIRE!
SIRE? WILT THOU NOT SIGNAL BALDER TO BE AT HIS EASE?
HMMM...WHAT SAYEST THOU?
AHHH, YES--OF COURSE!
I SALUTE THEE, FRUIT OF ASGARD! THY COURAGE FINDS FAVOR IN THE EYES OF ODIN!
YOU DO ME GREAT HONOR, MY LORD!
IF ONLY MIGHTY THOR WERE HERE! THEN THOU WOULDST SEE A JOUST MOST WORTHY OF THINE IMPERIAL PRESENCE!
THOR! 'TIS HE DOTH OCCUPY MY THOUGHTS!
I FEEL WITHIN ME A HAUNTING PREMONITION--A FEELING OF DIRE DISASTER WHICH BIDS FAIR TO THREATEN THE GOD OF THUNDER!
6

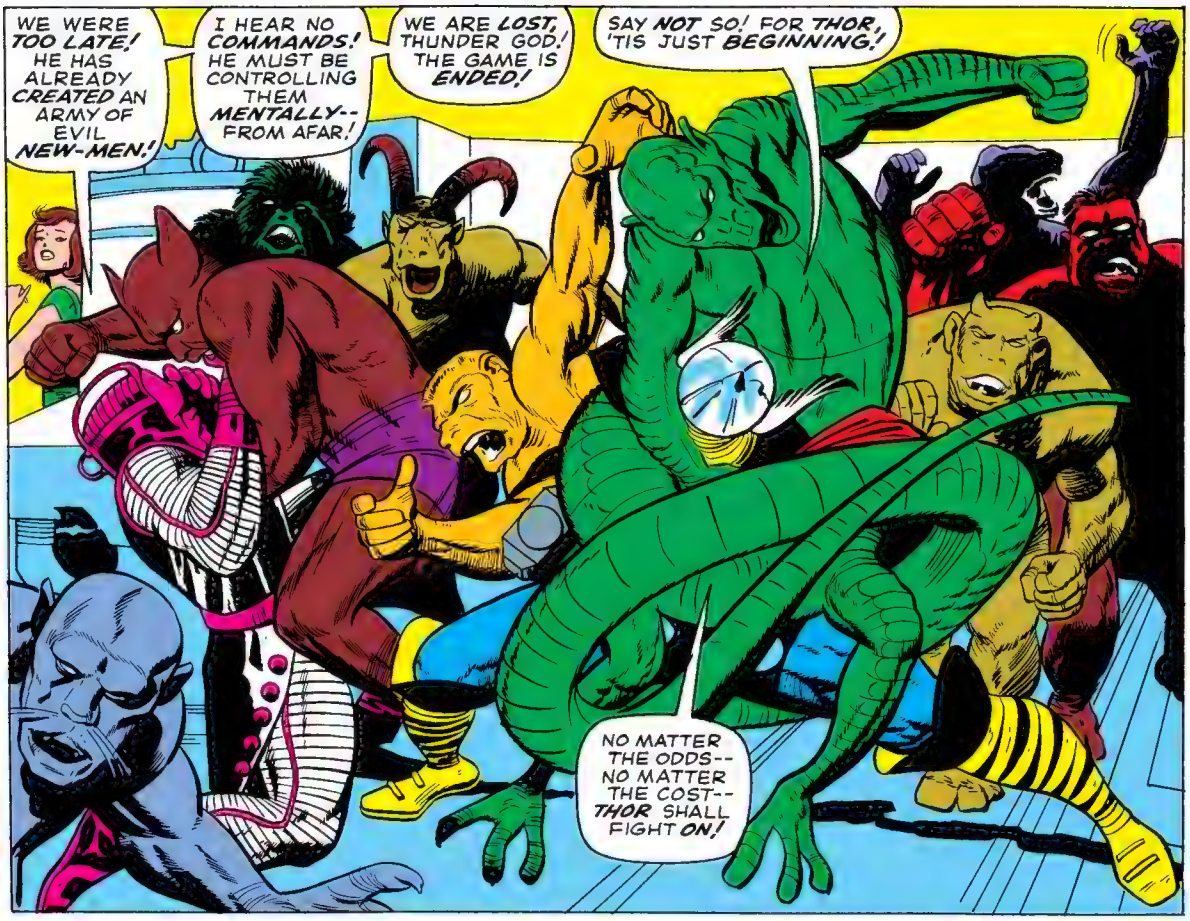

AND, EVEN AS THE TROUBLED ODIN BROODS DARKLY IN FABLED ASGARD, THE NEW-MEN KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE PATROL THEIR MYSTIC MOUNTAIN ON ATOMIC-POWERED STEEDS--
BEHOLD THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S TOWER! THE RAYS OF LIFE BEGIN TO SHINE ANEW!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE MAN-BEAST HAS FOUND WHAT HE SEEKS! I MUST ALERT THE MASTER!
PATROL ONE TO HIGH EVOLUTIONARY! THE GENETIC LABORATORY IS IN OPERATION!
WE AWAIT FURTHER ORDERS!
ALL IS NOW LOST! IF THE MAN-BEAST CONTROLS THE RAYS-- HE WILL SOON CONTROL-- THE WORLD!


STAND YE BACK, ALL!
NO MATTER WHAT THE RISK, THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL DESTROY YON MONSTER WHO LURKS WITHIN!
WHATEVER YOU DO, MY DARLING--TAKE ME WITH YOU! WHETHER YOU FIND TRIUMPH OR TRAGEDY, LET US SHARE IT TOGETHER!
WAIT! THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO AFTER HIM--!
I HAVE A BETTER WAY--!

THIS INDUCTION DEVICE CLAMPED MAGNETICALLY TO THE WALL, WILL BRING HIM OUT INTO THE OPEN--WHERE YOUR HAMMER CAN STRIKE ONCE MORE!
THIS WILL SEND A VIBRA-BEAM THRU THE ENTIRE CASTLE--A BEAM POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CAUSE THE MAN-BEAST TO LEAVE HIS ANTI-MATTER BARRIER AND RACE HERE TO DESTROY IT!
BUT, YOU MUST BE EQUAL TO THE TASK, THUNDER GOD--FOR HE WILL COME TO DESTROY US, AS WELL!


THERE! I'VE DONE IT! NOTHING CAN KEEP HIM FROM US NOW!
JANE! GET THEE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY--A PLACE OF CONCEALMENT!
THOR CANNOT BATTLE SUCCESSFULLY IF HE FEARS FOR THY LIFE!
GO, MY BELOVED--AND REMEMBER--MY HAMMER STRIKES FOR THEE!
KRSSST

THE FEMALE HAS GONE! NOW YOU ARE FREE TO CONCENTRATE UPON THE COMING ATTACK!
THE MAN-BEAST MAY STRIKE AT ANY TIME--FROM ANYWHERE!!
NO MATTER! THOUGH HE APPEAR FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE, STILL SHALL HE FIND THOR AT THE READY!
HARK! FOOTFALLS--GETTING CLOSER! STAND FAST! OUR TIME IS COME!


WE WERE TOO LATE! HE HAS ALREADY CREATED AN ARMY OF EVIL NEW-MEN!
I HEAR NO COMMANDS! HE MUST BE CONTROLLING THEM MENTALLY-- FROM AFAR!
WE ARE LOST, THUNDER GOD! THE GAME IS ENDED!
SAY NOT SO! FOR THOR, 'TIS JUST BEGINNING!
NO MATTER THE ODDS-- NO MATTER THE COST-- THOR SHALL FIGHT ON!

THE MAN-BEAST DID NOT ALLOW THESE, HIS MINIONS, TO BECOME AS POWERFUL AS HE!
THEREFORE, THEY FALL EASY PRAY TO THE POWER OF MY MALLET!
BUT, WHAT OF THE WOLF-BEING HIMSELF? 'TIS HE WHO MUST BE VANQUISHED!

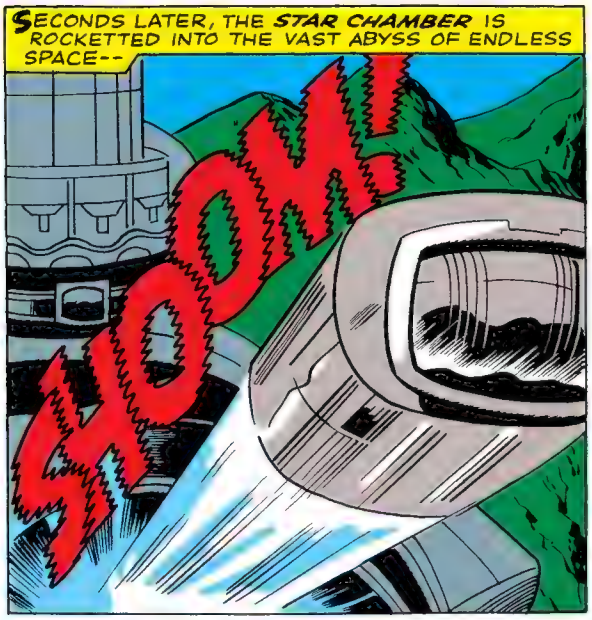
AND, AS MIGHTY THOR DRIVES HIS ATTACKERS EVER BACK, ANOTHER FORM SILENTLY LOPES UP BEHIND HIM--A SILENT, SINISTER WOLF FORM--!
THOK!

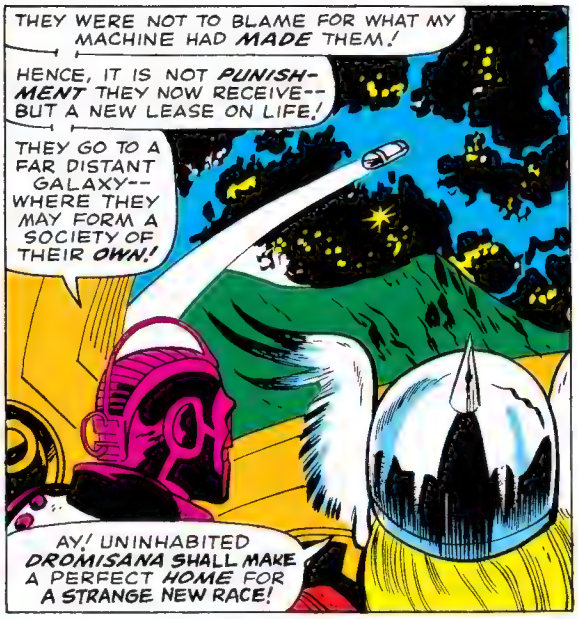
MEANWHILE, IN STILL ANOTHER PART OF THE CASTLE--
ATTENTION, KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE! BACK INTO THE CASTLE! THE BATTLE IS HERE! WE SHALL FIGHT--IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!
TAGAR! WHAT SHALL I DO? I WAS NOT BRED FOR BATTLE!
NO MATTER, PORGA! THERE ARE ENOUGH OF US WHO WERE!
WAIT, TAGAR! YOU WERE NOT TRAINED FOR COMBAT! YOU HAVE BEEN THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S AMBASSADOR!
I NEED NO TRAINING! MY ANCESTORS LIVED FOR BATTLE! NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO REVERT TO TYPE!
I SHALL DON THE CATHODE GLOVES WHICH WERE GIVEN TO ME WHEN I EMERGED FROM THE GENETIC RAY!
AND NOW--THE ARMY OF NEW-MEN SHALL STRIKE--FOR THE DEFENSE OF WUNDAGORE!
KNIGHTS OF THE REALM--TO MY SIDE! THE CRISIS IS AT HAND!
THE MAN-BEAST HAS CREATED AN ARMY OF EVIL NEW-MEN! WE MUST CRUSH THEM--OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!
THUS, ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC BATTLES OF ALL TIME IS BEGUN--BETWEEN TWO OPPOSING FORCES OF UNCANNY NEW-MEN--
FOR THE GLORY OF WUNDAGORE--ATTACK!!

WITH A DEAFENING DIN THAT SEEMS TO REND THE VERY AIR ABOUT THEM, THE TWO MIGHTY FORCES MEET HEAD-ON IN A CATACLYSMIC CONFRONTATION SUCH AS NO MORTAL EYES HAVE EVER WITNESSED SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME--
THE MAN-BEAST HAS REACHED THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY!
ONWARD!! TO THE MASTER'S SIDE-- BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

NONE CAN REACH THE FOE AS QUICKLY AS MIGHTY THOR!
HAH! AND NONE CAN PERISH AS QUICKLY BENEATH THE POWER OF THE MAN-BEAST!
I AM THE CULMINATION OF A MILLION YEARS OF EVOLUTION! I AM TOTALLY SUPREME!
YOU CHALLENGED ME ONCE BEFORE!! YOU SHALL NOT LIVE TO DO SO AGAIN!
YOUR HAMMER WILL NEVER STRIKE ME!
I AM ABOUT TO DISINTEGRATE IT-- WITH ONE SIMPLE, ELEMENTARY MIND BLAST--!
THOUGH YOU SURELY POSSESS THE AWESOME POWERS OF THE DISTANT FUTURE--
THE GOD OF THUNDER DOTH POSSESS THE POWERS OF ALL ETERNITY!
STILL ART THOU NO MORE THAN MORTAL--!
AND STILL AM I SON OF ODIN, PRINCE OF ETERNAL ASGARD!

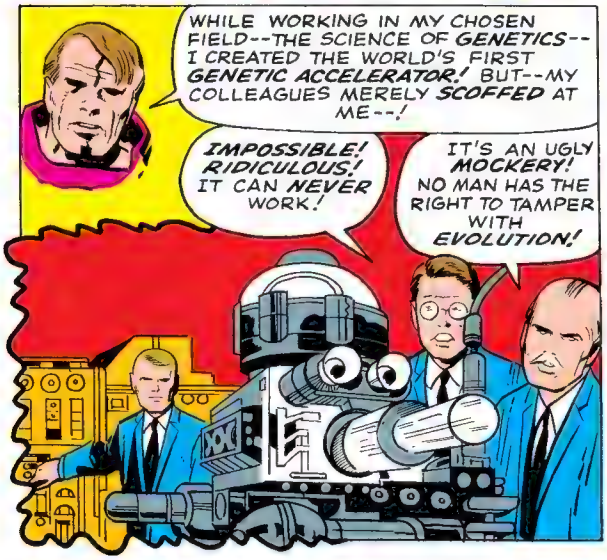
ROK!
STOP!
BKAM!
THE MAN-BEAST IS VANQUISHED! BUT--WHAT OF THEE?
I AM UNHARMED!
BUT, THERE STILL IS MUCH THAT MUST BE DONE--!
I MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE MAN-BEAST CAN NEVER AGAIN MENACE WUNDAGORE--OR ANY OTHER PORTION OF THIS UNSUSPECTING PLANET!
HOW CAN SUCH A GOAL BE ACCOMPLISHED?
OBSERVE! I SHALL SHOW YOU!
INTO THE STAR CHAMBER WITH THEM--EACH AND EVERY ONE!
STAR CHAMBER?
ALL IS IN READINESS! IT IS ZEROED-IN ON THE GALAXY DROMISANA!
ALL OUR TRAINING--ALL OUR PREPARATION--HAVE SERVED US IN GOOD STEAD!
THE KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE HAVE REPULSED THE MEN-BEASTS!

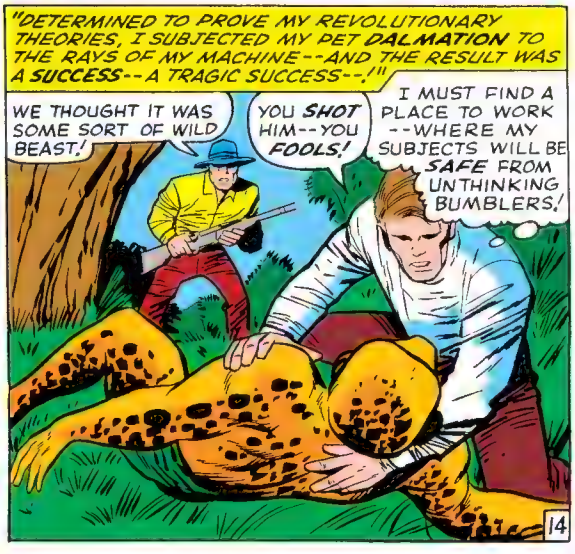

SECONDS LATER, THE STAR CHAMBER IS ROCKETTED INTO THE VAST ABYSS OF ENDLESS SPACE--
ZOOM!


THEY WERE NOT TO BLAME FOR WHAT MY MACHINE HAD MADE THEM!
HENCE, IT IS NOT PUNISHMENT THEY NOW RECEIVE--BUT A NEW LEASE ON LIFE!
THEY GO TO A FAR DISTANT GALAXY--WHERE THEY MAY FORM A SOCIETY OF THEIR OWN!
AY! UNINHABITED DROMISANA SHALL MAKE A PERFECT HOME FOR A STRANGE NEW RACE!

AND NOW, I SHALL HAVE NO FURTHER NEED FOR MY PROTECTIVE HELMET!
FOR, I--AND MY KNIGHTS OF WUNDAGORE--MUST SOON DEPART, AS WELL!
THOR! EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO QUICKLY! IS IT--IS IT REALLY OVER?
IT IS ENDED! BUT, STILL THERE IS MUCH TO LEARN!

SHORN OF THY HELMET, THOU ART A NORMAL HUMAN!
YES--I WAS A HUMBLE RESEARCH SCIENTIST--THOSE LONG YEARS AGO--BEFORE IT ALL BEGAN--!


WHILE WORKING IN MY CHOSEN FIELD--THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS--I CREATED THE WORLD'S FIRST GENETIC ACCELERATOR! BUT--MY COLLEAGUES MERELY SCOFFED AT ME--!
IMPOSSIBLE! RIDICULOUS! IT CAN NEVER WORK!
IT'S AN UGLY MOCKERY! NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO TAMPER WITH EVOLUTION!


"DETERMINED TO PROVE MY REVOLUTIONARY THEORIES, I SUBJECTED MY PET DALMATION TO THE RAYS OF MY MACHINE--AND THE RESULT WAS A SUCCESS--A TRAGIC SUCCESS--!"
WE THOUGHT IT WAS SOME SORT OF WILD BEAST!
YOU SHOT HIM--YOU FOOLS!
I MUST FIND A PLACE TO WORK--WHERE MY SUBJECTS WILL BE SAFE FROM UNTHINKING BUMBLERS!

"WHILE SEARCHING FOR A PROPER SPOT, FATE BESTOWED HER BLESSING UPON ME--I DISCOVERED A LODE OF **URANIUM**, MAKING ME WEALTHY BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS--WEALTHY ENOUGH TO CREATE THE PLACE CALLED **WUNDAGORE!**"

"HERE I CREATED MY **NEW-MEN**, MODELING THEM AFTER THE KNIGHTS OF OLD--STRIVING TO TEACH THEM A CODE OF HONOR, AND CHIVALRY!"

I DUB THEE **KNIGHT** OF WUNDAGORE! RISE, SIR KNIGHT!

"TWO OF MY FIRST--MY MOST TRUSTED **NEW-MEN** WERE **TAGAR,** AND **PORGA,** WHO ACTED AS MY AGENTS, TRAVELLING THE WORLD TO BRING ME INFORMATION AND VITAL SUPPLIES!"

WE NEED ONE TO **TEACH** OUR EVER-INCREASING BAND OF KNIGHT ERRANTS!

YOU WILL SEEK OUT SUCH AN INSTRUCTOR--AND YOU MUST NOT **FAIL!**

OUR **NEW-MEN** MUST BE TAUGHT LANGUAGE, SCIENCE, BIOLOGY, HISTORY--EVEN AS **I** HAVE TAUGHT **YOU!**

IT SHALL BE DONE, MASTER!

BUT NOW, I REALIZE WE CAN REMAIN HERE **NO LONGER!** SO LONG AS **WUNDAGORE** ENDURES, MANKIND WILL EVER BE IN **DANGER!**

WHAT **OTHER** CHOICE EXISTS FOR THEE?

THE ONE **FINAL** CHOICE I ALWAYS **KNEW** I WOULD SOMEDAY HAVE TO MAKE! **BEGONE!**

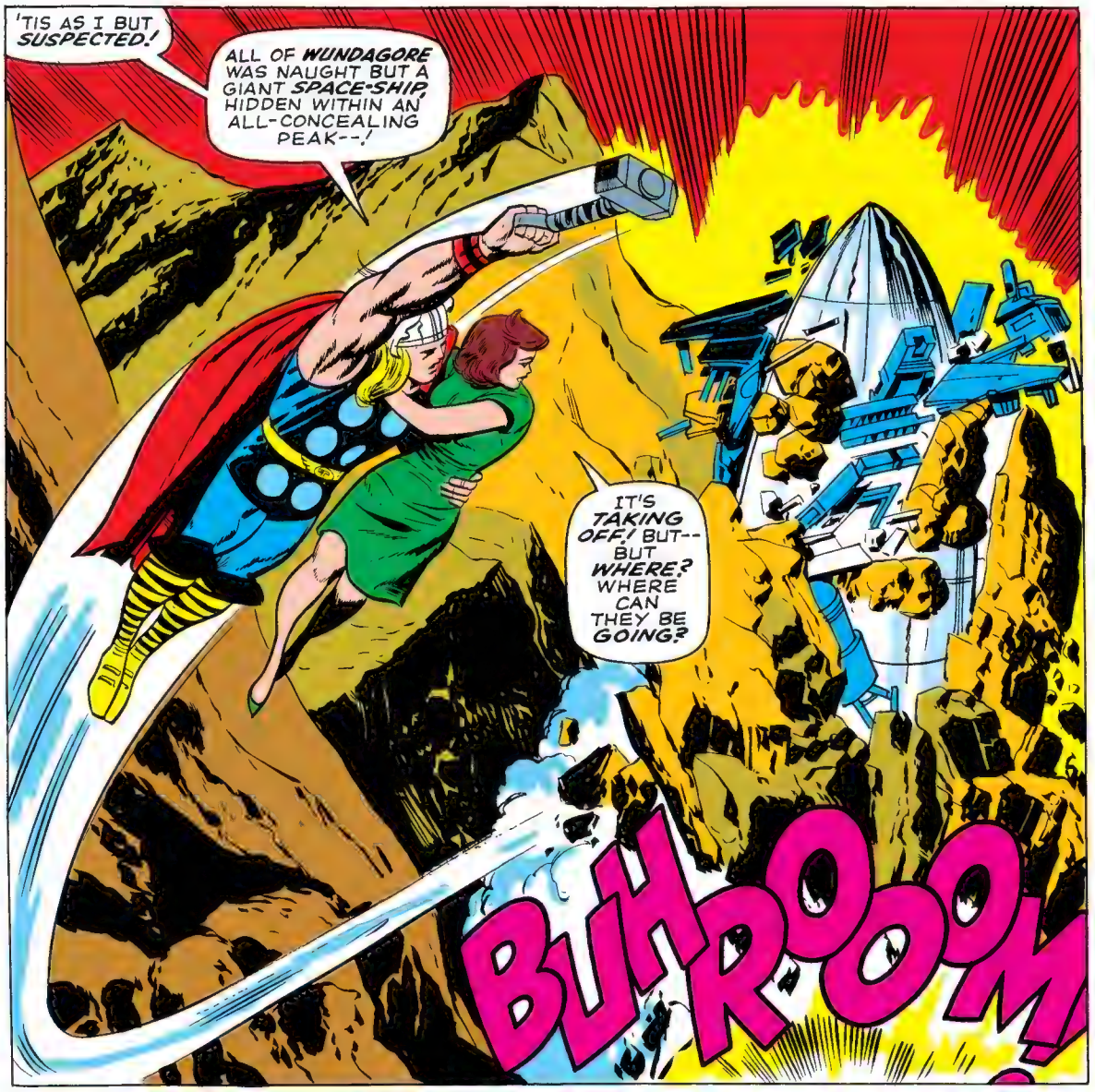
WHAT I MUST DO **NOW**--MUST BE DONE **ALONE!**

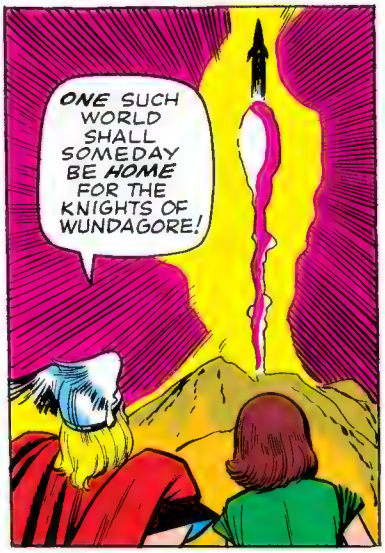
**THOR!** HE--HE'S OPENING THE GREAT **IRIS DOOR!**

BUT, WHAT DOES IT **MEAN?** WHAT IS HE PLANNING TO **DO?**

HIS PURPOSE DOTH GROW EVER **CLEARER!**

NOW, LET US **AWAY**--WHILE THERE STILL BE **TIME!**


'TIS AS I BUT SUSPECTED!
ALL OF WUNDAGORE WAS NAUGHT BUT A GIANT SPACE-SHIP, HIDDEN WITHIN AN ALL-CONCEALING PEAK--!
IT'S TAKING OFF! BUT-- BUT WHERE? WHERE CAN THEY BE GOING?
BUH-ROOOM!

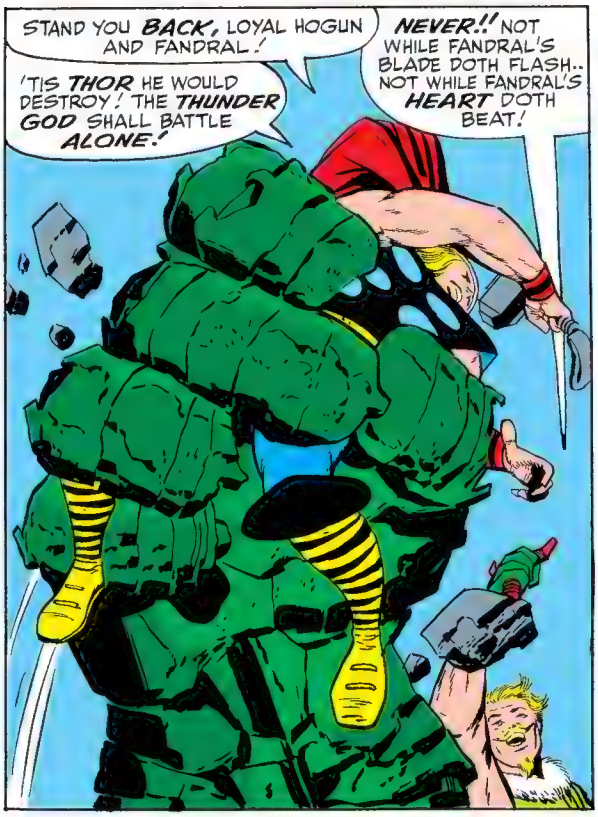


NEXT:
JANE BECOMES AN IMMORTAL!

# "THE FIERY BREATH OF FAFNIR!"

VOLSTAGG WAS TO HAVE STOOD GUARD THIS NIGHT...BUT NOW, THE ENORMOUS ONE HAS VANISHED!
THIS DOTH SURELY MEAN THAT THE FORBIDDEN LAND OF NASTROND IS NOT YET FREE OF EVIL! SOMEWHERE A DEADLY DANGER LURKS!
'TIS SURELY WHY IMPERIOUS ODIN HATH DISPATCHED US HENCE! HE DID SURMISE THIS ACCURSED REALM HATH NOT YET BEEN CLEANSED OF EVERY LAST VESTIGE OF LIFE!
NO MATTER! THY HAMMER, HOGUN'S MACE, AND MY OWN FLASHING SWORD SHALL SOON ENOW PUT ALL TO RIGHTS!
EVEN ODIN DID NOT SUSPECT THAT KING FAFNIR WOULD SURVIVE HIS PUNISHMENT... BY BATHING IN THE RAYS OF THE RADIANT POOL!
RAYS WHICH TRANSFORMED ME INTO THE SHAPE OF A DRAGON... STRONG ENOUGH TO EXACT THE DIRE REVENGE WHICH MUST BE MINE!
PROUDLY PRODUCED BY STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
DELINEATION: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
AND NOW, PREPARE FOR SPECTACLE BEYOND MORTAL WORDS...

AT LAST!! THE TIME IS COME FOR FAFNIR TO SLAY THE GOLDEN-HAIRED SON OF THE UNSPEAKABLE ODIN!
TO ARMS! A MONSTER STANDS BELOW!
'TWAS HE WHO CAPTURED VOLSTAGG!! 'TIS HE WHO SHALL PAY FOR SO SORRY A DEED!
FAFNIR!! THE ONCE-KING OF NASTROND!! MOST HEARTLESS OF ALL TO WEAR A CROWN
BY SOME STRANGE, EVIL ALCHEMY, HE LIVES... IN THE FORM OF A TOWERING DRAGON!


STAND YOU BACK, LOYAL HOGUN AND FANDRAL!
'TIS THOR HE WOULD DESTROY! THE THUNDER GOD SHALL BATTLE ALONE!
NEVER!! NOT WHILE FANDRAL'S BLADE DOTH FLASH.. NOT WHILE FANDRAL'S HEART DOTH BEAT!

HOGUN ECHOES THY SENTIMENT, DASHING ONE! LET US HURL OURSELVES AT... BUT... WAIT! WHAT IS AMISS?
HIS STRENGTH DEFIES BELIEF! MY MATCHLESS BLADE CANNOT EVEN DENT YON MONSTER'S HIDE!
HOLD! THE SON OF ODIN MAKES READY TO WIELD HIS HAMMER!

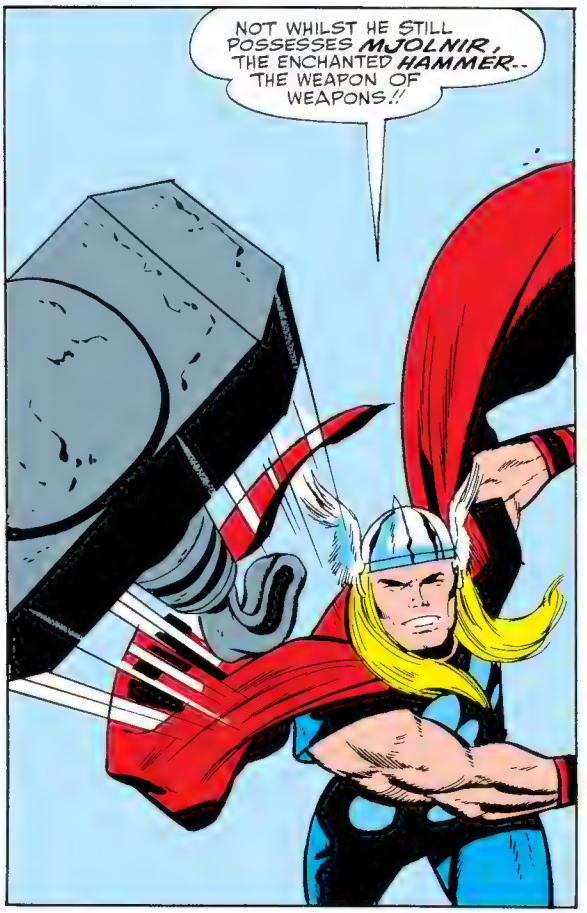
AND, WHEN THE ENCHANTED MALLET OF THOR FINDS ITS MARK, THE VERY MOUNTAINS OF NASTROND QUAKE FROM THE AWESOME IMPACT--!
THOOM!

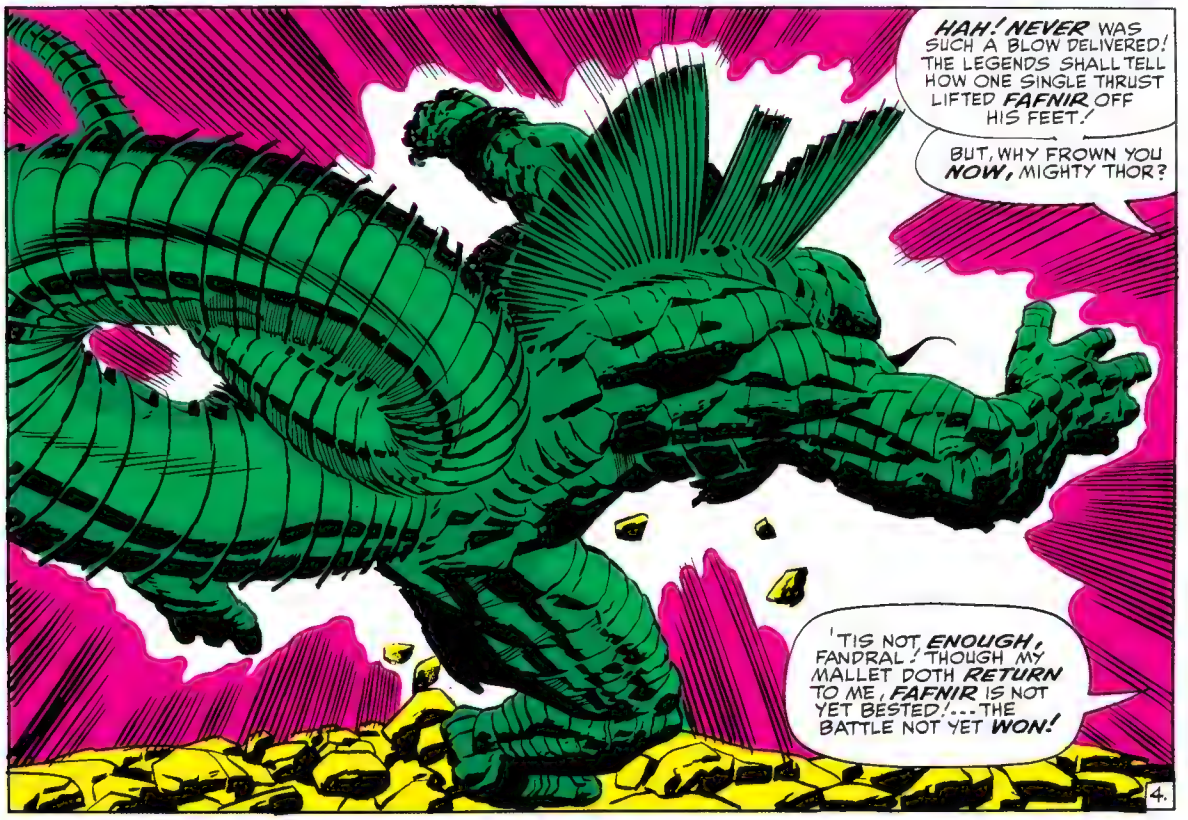
EVIL ONE! NO HAND MAY IMPRISON THOR--- NO MATTER WHAT ITS SIZE!
NOW, SPEAK YOU--- BEFORE MY HAMMER STRIKES AGAIN! WHERE IS VOLSTAGG TO BE FOUND?
WHERE YOU SHALL NEVER FIND HIM!!
THOUGH YOU FREED YOURSELF FROM MY GRASP--- STILL DOES CERTAIN DOOM AWAIT YOU!

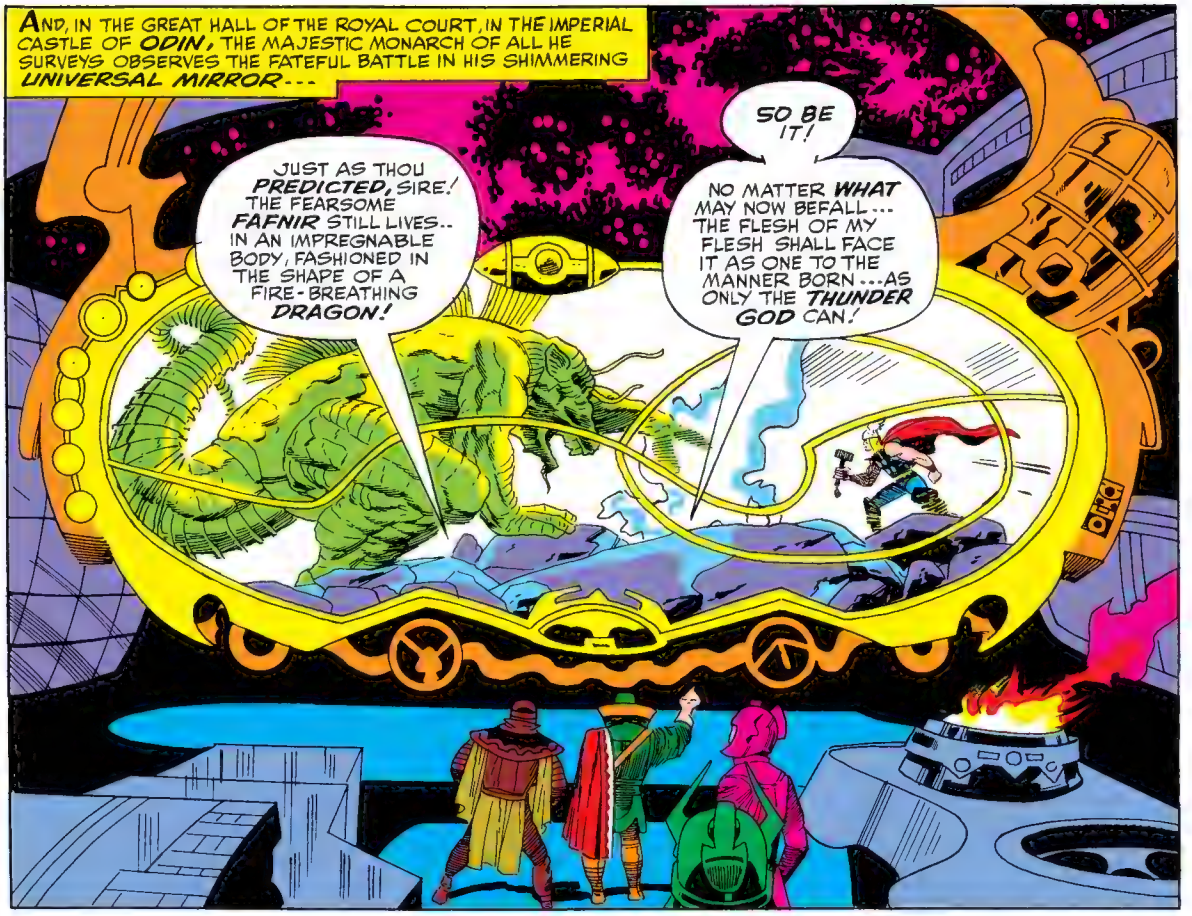
FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES HAVE I WAITED... ALONE IN THIS BARREN LAND--- WAITED FOR A KIN OF ODIN TO BE MY VICTIM!
TOO LONG HAVE I DREAMED OF THIS MOMENT!! NOW SHALL FAFNIR CLAIM HIS VENGEANCE!
DO THY WORST, KING OF VILLAINY! STILL SHALL THOR DEFY THEE!

HE EXPELS HIS FIERY BREATH--- LIKE A LIVING WALL OF FLAME!
WHOOSH!
3.

BACK, THUNDER GOD... BACK! EVEN THOU ART NOT IMPERVIOUS TO FIRE!
NAY! THE SON OF ODIN DOTH NOT RETREAT IN THE FACE OF DANGER!


NOT WHILST HE STILL POSSESSES MJOLNIR, THE ENCHANTED HAMMER-- THE WEAPON OF WEAPONS!!


HAH! NEVER WAS SUCH A BLOW DELIVERED! THE LEGENDS SHALL TELL HOW ONE SINGLE THRUST LIFTED FAFNIR OFF HIS FEET!
BUT, WHY FROWN YOU NOW, MIGHTY THOR?
'TIS NOT ENOUGH, FANDRAL! THOUGH MY MALLET DOTH RETURN TO ME, FAFNIR IS NOT YET BESTED!---THE BATTLE NOT YET WON!


AND, IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE ROYAL COURT, IN THE IMPERIAL CASTLE OF ODIN, THE MAJESTIC MONARCH OF ALL HE SURVEYS OBSERVES THE FATEFUL BATTLE IN HIS SHIMMERING UNIVERSAL MIRROR---
JUST AS THOU PREDICTED, SIRE! THE FEARSOME FAFNIR STILL LIVES.. IN AN IMPREGNABLE BODY, FASHIONED IN THE SHAPE OF A FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON!
SO BE IT!
NO MATTER WHAT MAY NOW BEFALL... THE FLESH OF MY FLESH SHALL FACE IT AS ONE TO THE MANNER BORN...AS ONLY THE THUNDER GOD CAN!

THE SON OF ODIN KNOWS FULL WELL... EVIL HATH MANY FACES---
AND, WHERE'ER IT MAY BE FOUND... NO MATTER WHAT ITS GUISE... IT MUST BE SUMMARILY CRUSHED... FOR SUCH IS THE WILL OF ODIN!

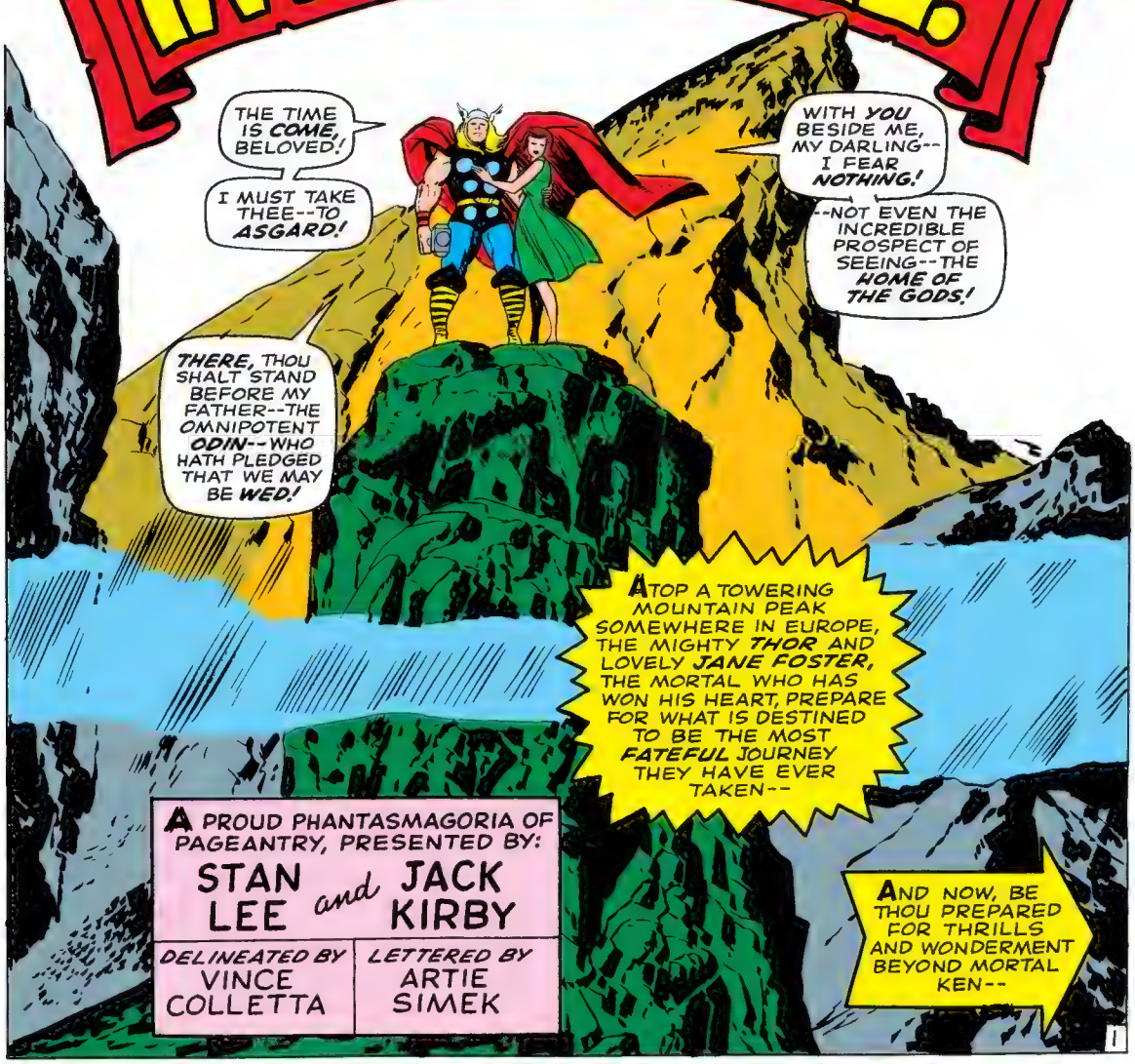
ONLY WITH THE DEFEAT OF FAFNIR CAN THE DEAD DOMAIN OF NASTROND LIVE AGAIN!
THUS MUST IT BE! AND THAT WHICH MUST BE, EVER SHALL BE! FOR SUCH IS THE WONDER!! SUCH IS THE WAY!
NOW, VERILY... I HAVE SPOKEN!!

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE, WHEN THINE DAZZLED EYES SHALL TRULY BEHOLD "THE MIRACLE PODS!"

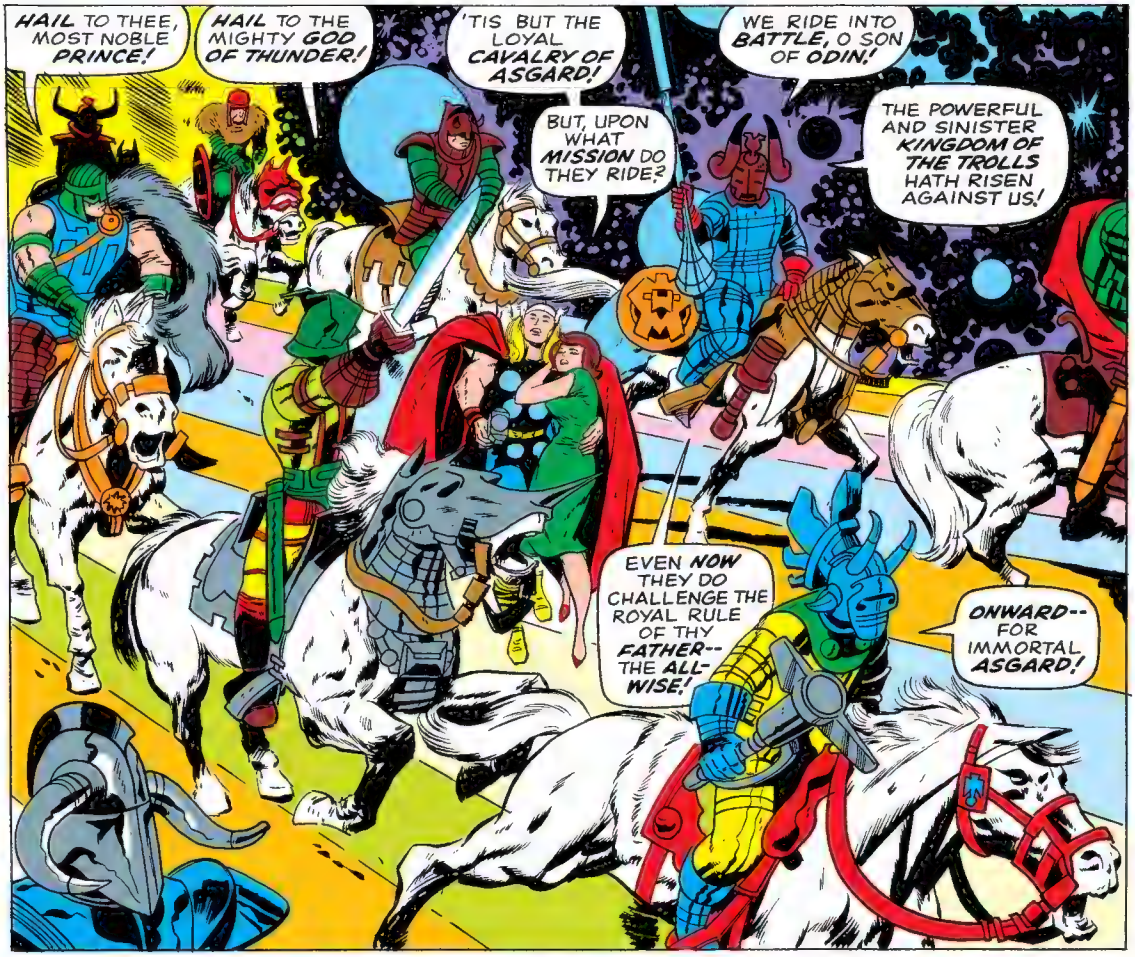
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
136 JAN
"TO BECOME AN IMMORTAL!"
FEATURING THE UNCANNY MENACE OF HIM... WHO IS... UNKNOWN!

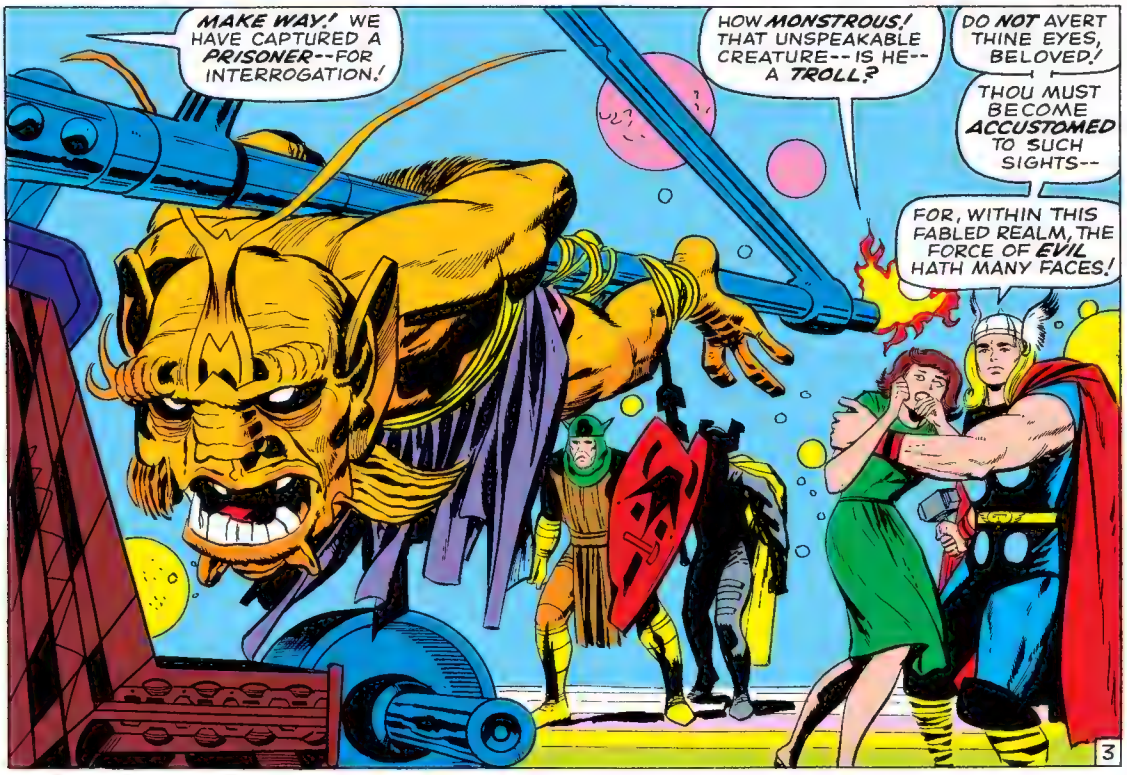
# THE MIGHTY THOR!

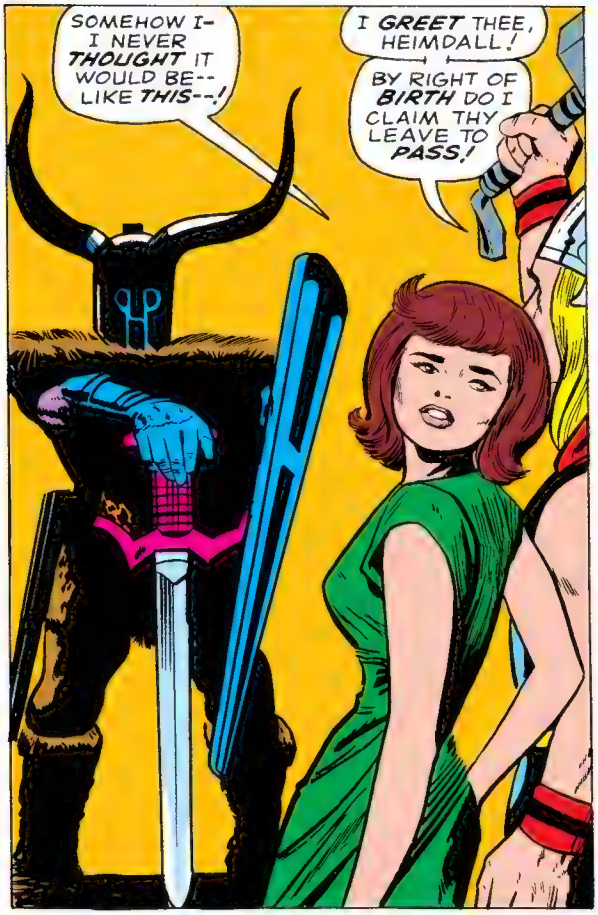
# "TO BECOME AN IMMORTAL!"

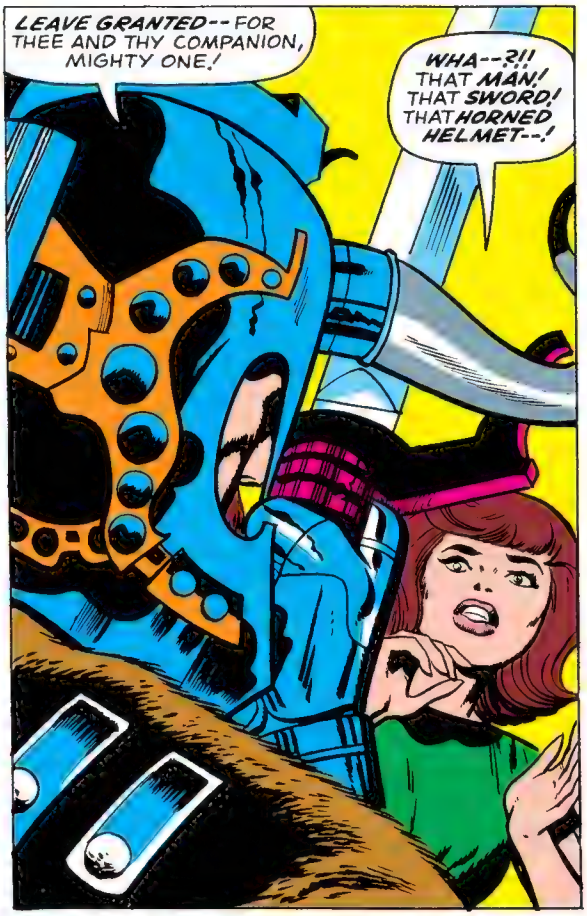

THE TIME IS COME, BELOVED!
I MUST TAKE THEE--TO ASGARD!
WITH YOU BESIDE ME, MY DARLING--I FEAR NOTHING!
--NOT EVEN THE INCREDIBLE PROSPECT OF SEEING--THE HOME OF THE GODS!
THERE, THOU SHALT STAND BEFORE MY FATHER--THE OMNIPOTENT ODIN--WHO HATH PLEDGED THAT WE MAY BE WED!
ATOP A TOWERING MOUNTAIN PEAK SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, THE MIGHTY THOR AND LOVELY JANE FOSTER, THE MORTAL WHO HAS WON HIS HEART, PREPARE FOR WHAT IS DESTINED TO BE THE MOST FATEFUL JOURNEY THEY HAVE EVER TAKEN--
A PROUD PHANTASMAGORIA OF PAGEANTRY, PRESENTED BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
DELINEATED BY VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY ARTIE SIMEK
AND NOW, BE THOU PREPARED FOR THRILLS AND WONDERMENT BEYOND MORTAL KEN--
1

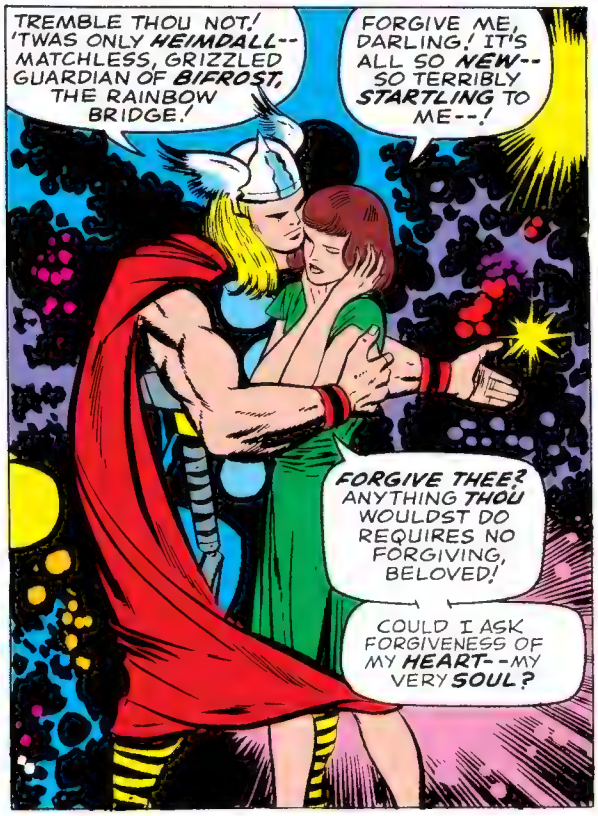
NEVER AGAIN, MY LOVE, SHALT THOU HAVE CAUSE FOR FEAR!
NEVER AGAIN SHALL THE GOD OF THUNDER FORSAKE THEE!
MY LIFE SHALL BE THINE-- FOREVERMORE!
AND NOW-- PLACE THINE ARMS AROUND ME --SO!
BY THE POWER OF MY ENCHANTED MALLET, WE NOW DEPART THIS MORTAL SPHERE!
LET THINE EYELIDS BE CLOSED, BELOVED--
FOR, WHEN NEXT THEY ARE OPENED--
THEY SHALL BEHOLD THE SIGHT OF ALL SIGHTS--
NOW, JANE FOSTER! NOW SHALT THOU LOOK--
THE COLORS-- THE BRIGHTNESS THE SHEER BEAUTY --IT'S ALMOST UNBEARABLE!
'TIS BUT THE SHIMMERING SPLENDOR OF THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE, UPON WHICH WE DO STAND!
THOR! THAT NOISE! THOSE MEN--!
2


HAIL TO THEE, MOST NOBLE PRINCE!
HAIL TO THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER!
'TIS BUT THE LOYAL CAVALRY OF ASGARD!
BUT, UPON WHAT MISSION DO THEY RIDE?
WE RIDE INTO BATTLE, O SON OF ODIN!
THE POWERFUL AND SINISTER KINGDOM OF THE TROLLS HATH RISEN AGAINST US!
EVEN NOW THEY DO CHALLENGE THE ROYAL RULE OF THY FATHER--THE ALL-WISE!
ONWARD--FOR IMMORTAL ASGARD!

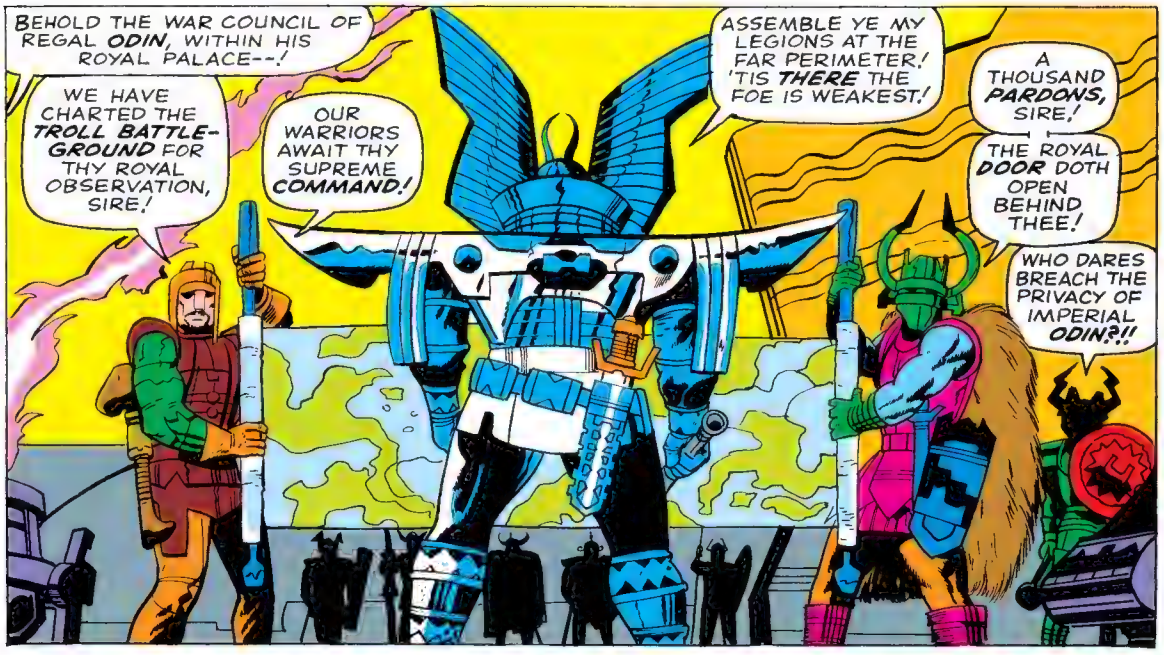

MAKE WAY! WE HAVE CAPTURED A PRISONER--FOR INTERROGATION!
HOW MONSTROUS! THAT UNSPEAKABLE CREATURE--IS HE--A TROLL?
DO NOT AVERT THINE EYES, BELOVED!
THOU MUST BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO SUCH SIGHTS--
FOR, WITHIN THIS FABLED REALM, THE FORCE OF EVIL HATH MANY FACES!
3


SOMEHOW I--I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE--LIKE THIS--!
I GREET THEE, HEIMDALL!
BY RIGHT OF BIRTH DO I CLAIM THY LEAVE TO PASS!


LEAVE GRANTED--FOR THEE AND THY COMPANION, MIGHTY ONE!
WHA--?!! THAT MAN! THAT SWORD! THAT HORNED HELMET--!


TREMBLE THOU NOT! 'TWAS ONLY HEIMDALL--MATCHLESS, GRIZZLED GUARDIAN OF BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!
FORGIVE ME, DARLING! IT'S ALL SO NEW--SO TERRIBLY STARTLING TO ME--!
FORGIVE THEE? ANYTHING THOU WOULDST DO REQUIRES NO FORGIVING, BELOVED!
COULD I ASK FORGIVENESS OF MY HEART--MY VERY SOUL?

BUT, THE TIME IS COME TO PREPARE THYSELF--
FOR, THE GLORY AND THE GRANDEUR OF ASGARD NOW AWAIT THEE!


BEHOLD THE WAR COUNCIL OF REGAL ODIN, WITHIN HIS ROYAL PALACE--!
WE HAVE CHARTED THE TROLL BATTLE-GROUND FOR THY ROYAL OBSERVATION, SIRE!
OUR WARRIORS AWAIT THY SUPREME COMMAND!
ASSEMBLE YE MY LEGIONS AT THE FAR PERIMETER! 'TIS THERE THE FOE IS WEAKEST!
A THOUSAND PARDONS, SIRE,!
THE ROYAL DOOR DOTH OPEN BEHIND THEE!
WHO DARES BREACH THE PRIVACY OF IMPERIAL ODIN?!!

HAIL TO THEE, SOVEREIGN MOST SUPREME! HAIL, LORDLY MONARCH OF THE REALM!
THOU MAYEST ENTER THE PRESENCE, THUNDER GOD!
THY SON MOST DUTIFUL HATH RETURNED-- TO PRESENT TO THEE --HIS BELOVED!

ADVANCE, AND BE RECOGNIZED! I WOULDST FAIN SPEAK WITH YON MORTAL FEMALE!

ON EARTH, MY LORD, SHE DOTH POSSESS THE NAME JANE FOSTER!
I-CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I'M ACTUALLY --FACE-TO-FACE--WITH ODIN--THE ALL-FATHER!
FORGIVE ME, SIR--I-I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS--!

THOU MUST NOT TREMBLE, MY CHILD!
GIVE ME THY HAND-- THAT I MAY PLACE IT ON MINE!
MAYHAP THOU WILT DRAW CONFIDENCE, AND SERENITY, FROM THE STRENGTH WHICH IS MINE OWN!

MANY DAYS AGO, HONORED FATHER, THOU DIDST AFFIRM THAT WE MIGHT BE WED!
THE WORD OF ODIN IS A BOND ETERNAL!
MORTAL FEMALE --STAND FORTH! I SHALL MAKE THEE RAIMENT FIT FOR A GODDESS!
FOR GODDESS SHALT THOU BE!

SO BE IT!
WHAT-- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?

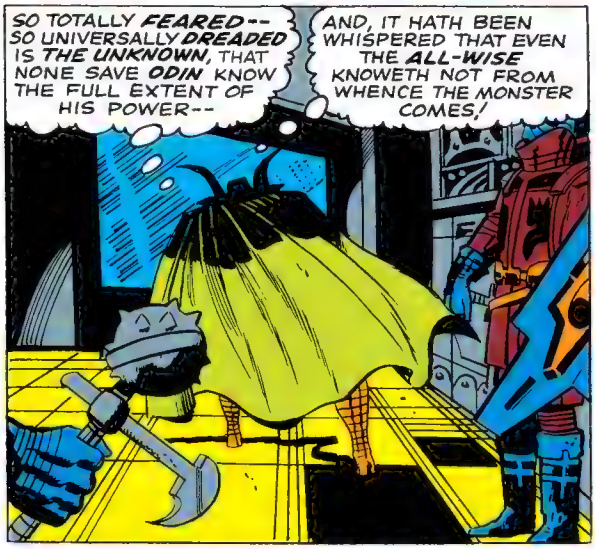
'TIS THE MOMENT WE HAVE LONG AWAITED! MY FATHER PREPARES TO MAKE THEE--AN IMMORTAL!
FOR, NONE BUT A TRUE GODDESS MAY WED A GOD!
I HAVE A GIFT TO BESTOW! STAND THEE BACK, FLESH OF MY FLESH!

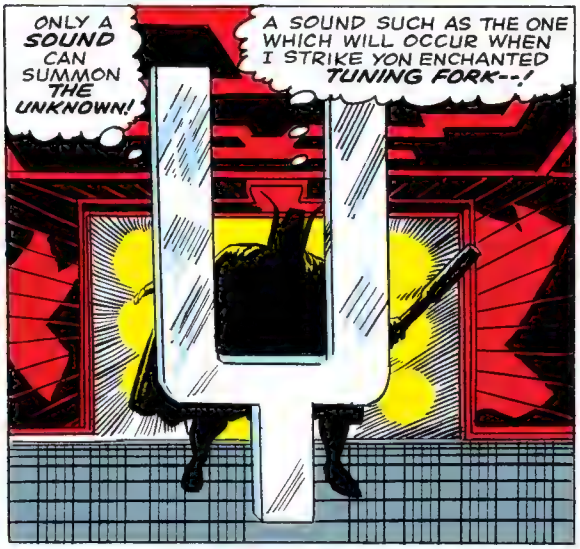
I GRANT THEE A GIFT WORTHY OF A THUNDER GOD'S BRIDE...
NO LONGER ART THOU EARTHBOUND, JANE FOSTER! THUS SPEAKS ODIN!
THE ENCHANTED GIFT OF--- UNLIMITED FLIGHT!
I-I'M SOARING --INTO THE SKY!
MERELY THINK OF A DESTINATION --AND THOU SHALT FLY THERE FORTHWITH!

AS A CHILD, I OFTEN DAY-DREAMED--THOUGHT HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO FLY LIKE A BIRD!
BUT, I NEVER DREAMT IT COULD BE SO TERRIFYING --SUCH AN ALIEN, UNNATURAL SENSATION!
SUDDENLY, THE TENSE, STARTLED GIRL GROWS PANICKY--OVERWHELMED BY HER NEW POWER--UNABLE TO ADJUST TO IT IN TIME--
IT-IT ISN'T POSSIBLE...TO FLY --BY THOUGHT ALONE! WHAT IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG?
WHAT IF-- THE POWER VANISHES--?
OHHH!
SHE FALLS! SHE WAS NOT YET READY FOR SUCH A GIFT!
FATHER--BY THY LEAVE-- I MUST FLY TO HER SIDE!
MY BREAST IS SORELY TROUBLED!
DOTH MY TRULY BELOVED HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH?
DID SHE DEIGN TO DOUBT THE WORD OF ODIN--THE PLEDGE OF THOR?
MY DARLING! THANK HEAVEN YOU REACHED ME IN TIME!
THOU MUST PUT ASIDE THINE EARTHLY FEARS!
THOU MUST LEARN THE UNQUESTIONING COURAGE OF AN IMMORTAL BORN!

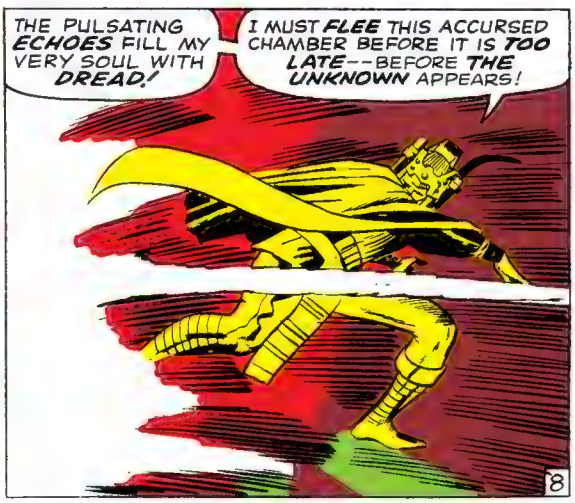
SIRE, THE EARTH FEMALE SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE TASTE FOR IMMORTALITY!
YET, SHE MUST LEARN TO AQUIT HERSELF LIKE A GODDESS! THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!
I SHALL AFFORD HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AMENDS FOR WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE--!
SUMMON YE-- THE UNKNOWN!

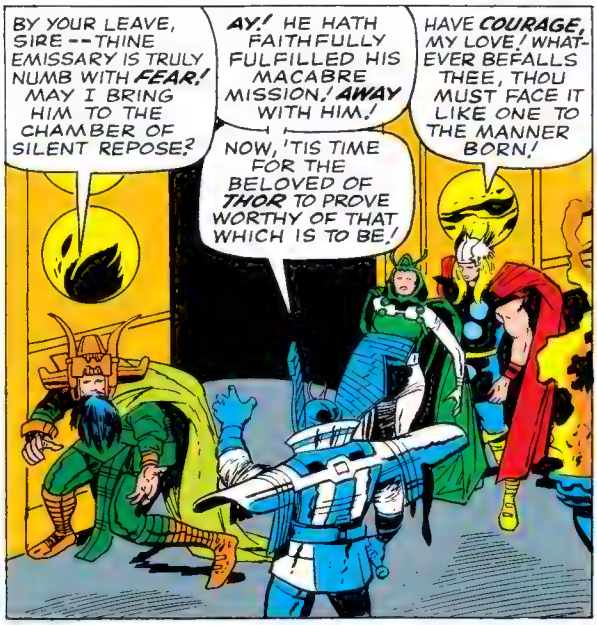
SIRE! HAST THOU CONSIDERED THE AWESOME CONSEQUENCES?
TRUE! BUT GODHOOD IS NOT LIGHTLY WON! LET THE TEST CONTINUE!
THE UNKNOWN IS TOO FEARSOME--TOO POWERFUL FOR ANY SAVE THEE!
BRING THEE FORTH THE UNKNOWN! I HAVE SPOKEN!

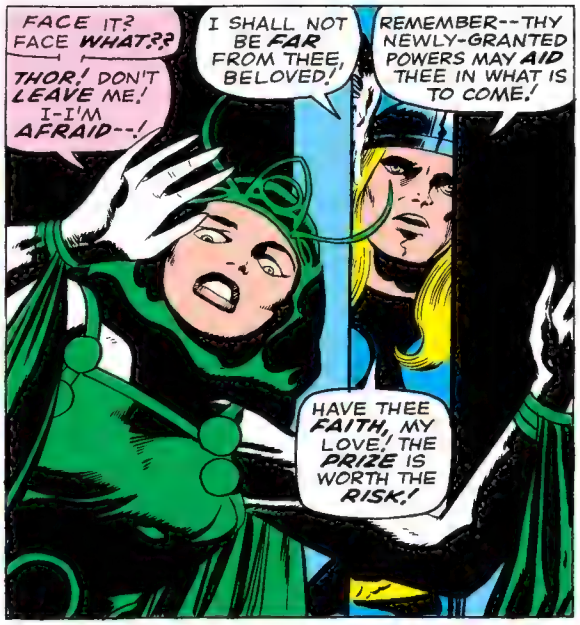

SO TOTALLY FEARED-- SO UNIVERSALLY DREADED IS THE UNKNOWN, THAT NONE SAVE ODIN KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS POWER--
AND, IT HATH BEEN WHISPERED THAT EVEN THE ALL-WISE KNOWETH NOT FROM WHENCE THE MONSTER COMES!

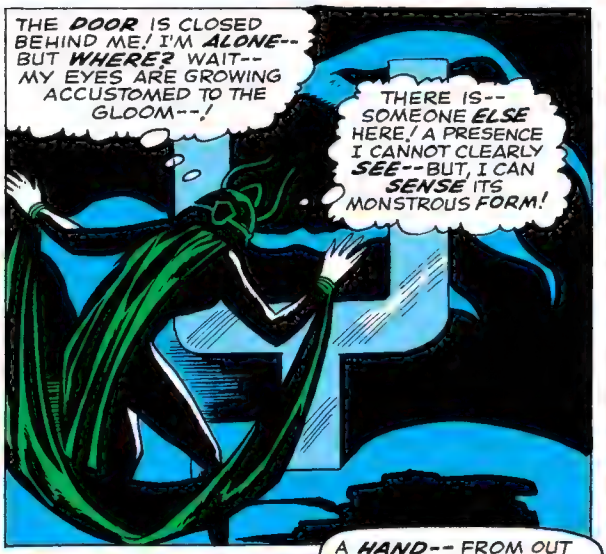

ONLY A SOUND CAN SUMMON THE UNKNOWN!
A SOUND SUCH AS THE ONE WHICH WILL OCCUR WHEN I STRIKE YON ENCHANTED TUNING FORK--!

IT IS DONE!
THYONNG!

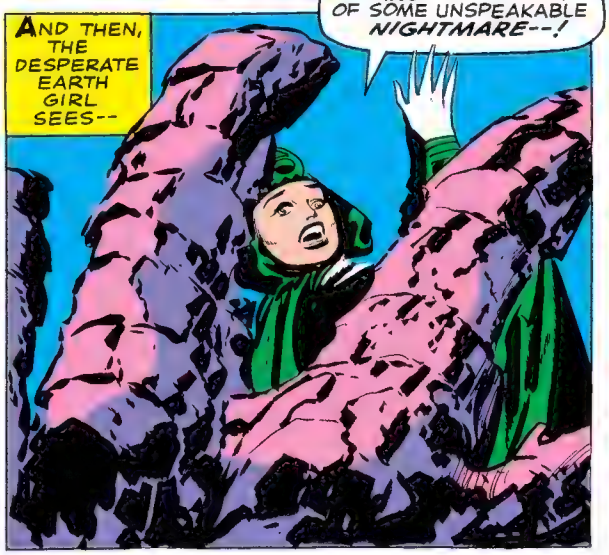

THE PULSATING ECHOES FILL MY VERY SOUL WITH DREAD!
I MUST FLEE THIS ACCURSED CHAMBER BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE--BEFORE THE UNKNOWN APPEARS!

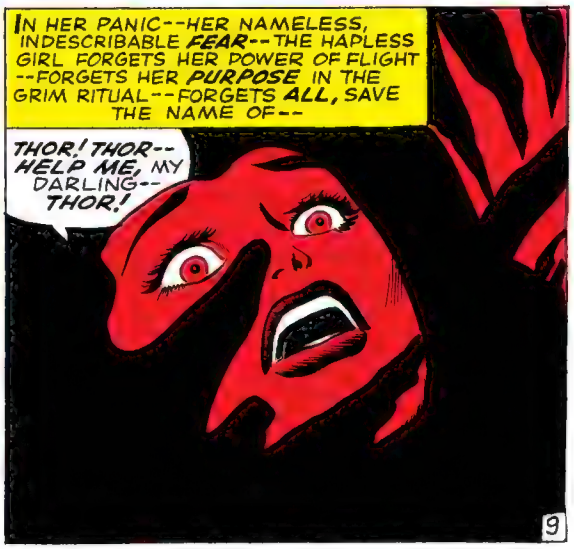

BY YOUR LEAVE, SIRE--THINE EMISSARY IS TRULY NUMB WITH FEAR! MAY I BRING HIM TO THE CHAMBER OF SILENT REPOSE?
AY! HE HATH FAITHFULLY FULFILLED HIS MACABRE MISSION! AWAY WITH HIM!
NOW, 'TIS TIME FOR THE BELOVED OF THOR TO PROVE WORTHY OF THAT WHICH IS TO BE!
HAVE COURAGE, MY LOVE! WHATEVER BEFALLS THEE, THOU MUST FACE IT LIKE ONE TO THE MANNER BORN!


FACE IT? FACE WHAT??
THOR! DON'T LEAVE ME! I-I'M AFRAID--!
I SHALL NOT BE FAR FROM THEE, BELOVED!
REMEMBER--THY NEWLY-GRANTED POWERS MAY AID THEE IN WHAT IS TO COME!
HAVE THEE FAITH, MY LOVE! THE PRIZE IS WORTH THE RISK!

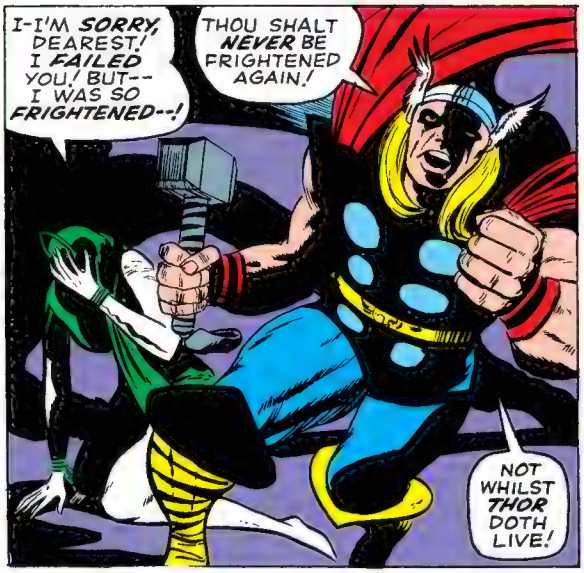

THE DOOR IS CLOSED BEHIND ME! I'M ALONE--BUT WHERE? WAIT--MY EYES ARE GROWING ACCUSTOMED TO THE GLOOM--!
THERE IS--SOMEONE ELSE HERE! A PRESENCE I CANNOT CLEARLY SEE--BUT, I CAN SENSE ITS MONSTROUS FORM!

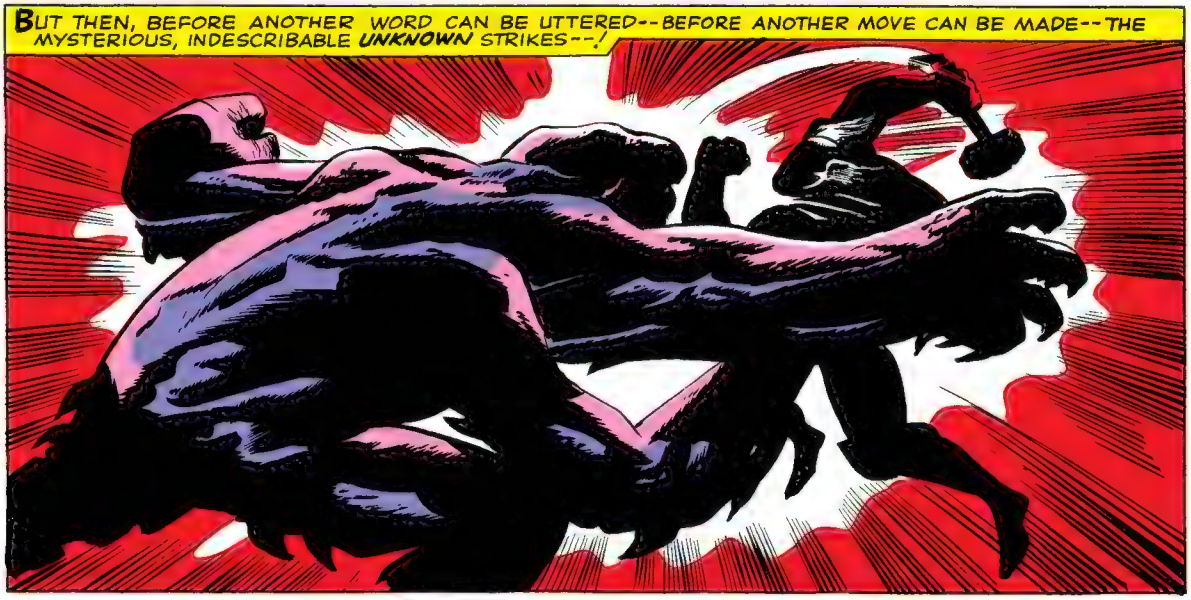
IT'S DRAWING CLOSER--CLOSER--I CAN HEAR IT BREATHING--HEAR ITS HEAVY LUMBERING FOOTFALLS--!

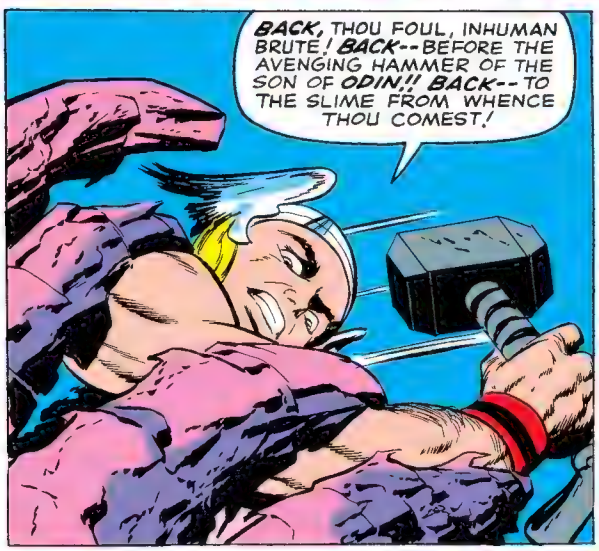

AND THEN, THE DESPERATE EARTH GIRL SEES--
A HAND--FROM OUT OF SOME UNSPEAKABLE NIGHTMARE--!


IN HER PANIC--HER NAMELESS, INDESCRIBABLE FEAR--THE HAPLESS GIRL FORGETS HER POWER OF FLIGHT--FORGETS HER PURPOSE IN THE GRIM RITUAL--FORGETS ALL, SAVE THE NAME OF--
THOR! THOR--HELP ME, MY DARLING--THOR!

I CANNOT FAIL MY LOVE WHEN SHE CALLS!
THE THUNDER GOD IS HERE!


I-I'M SORRY, DEAREST! I FAILED YOU! BUT-- I WAS SO FRIGHTENED--!
THOU SHALT NEVER BE FRIGHTENED AGAIN!
NOT WHILST THOR DOTH LIVE!


BUT THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--BEFORE ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE--THE MYSTERIOUS, INDESCRIBABLE UNKNOWN STRIKES--!


BACK, THOU FOUL, INHUMAN BRUTE! BACK--BEFORE THE AVENGING HAMMER OF THE SON OF ODIN!! BACK--TO THE SLIME FROM WHENCE THOU COMEST!

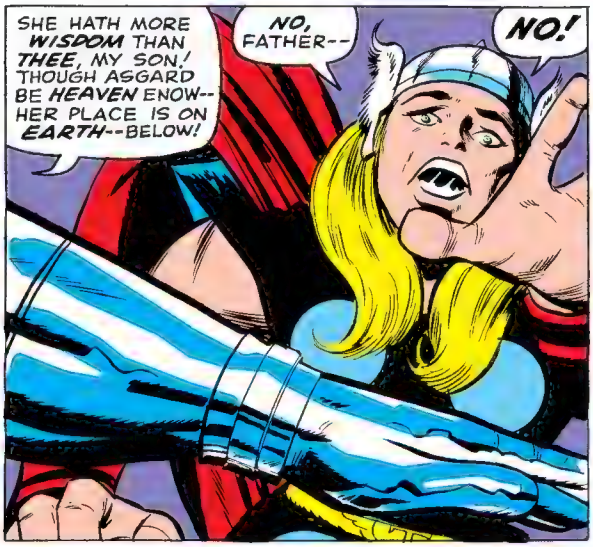
KROOOM!

HE IS GONE! THE FURY OF MY MALLET HATH DRIVEN HIM BEYOND THIS IMMORTAL SPHERE!
I MUST GET OUT! I MUST LEAVE--RUN AWAY--ESCAPE THIS WORLD OF FEAR AND MADNESS!
I CAN STAND NO MORE! IF I STAY --I'LL GO MAD!

OMNIPOTENT ONE! WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, ART THOU NOT CAUSING JANE FOSTER TO UNDERGO MORE THAN MORTAL FEMALE CAN ENDURE?
I SAY THEE NAY! IF THOU WOULDST HAVE HER A GODDESS BE, THEN A GODDESS' HEART MUST SHE POSSESS!

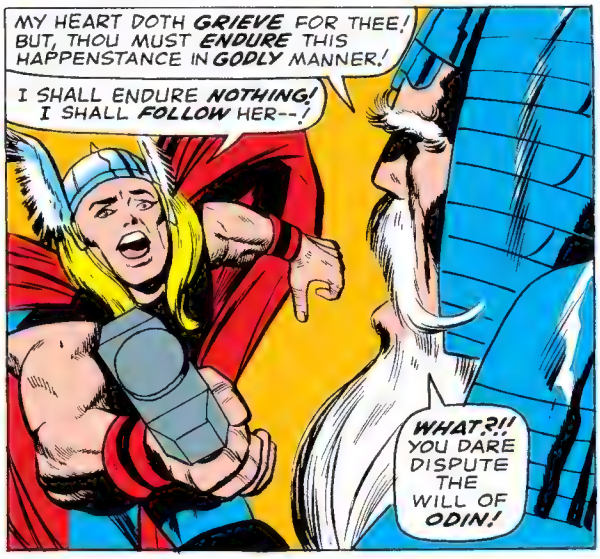
HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?
ON FEAR DOTH THE UNKNOWN FEED! IT IS FOR THAT REASON HE HATH NEVER INVADED THE GOLDEN REALM--
FOR THE GODS OF ASGARD KNOW NOT THE MEANING OF FEAR!

BUT--HEAR ME, FATHER! SHE IS NO WARRIOR! SHE IS NO VALKYRIE BORN! SHE IS BUT MY BELOVED--GENTLE--AND KIND--AND TRUE!
IS THERE NO PLACE FOR ONE SUCH AS SHE IN THE HOME OF THE GODS??
NO! DON'T ASK HIM! I DON'T WANT IT! I WON'T BE A GODDESS! I WON'T STAY IN ASGARD!
IT'S TOO HORRIBLE! TOO UNENDURABLE! DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW MAD IT IS?!!

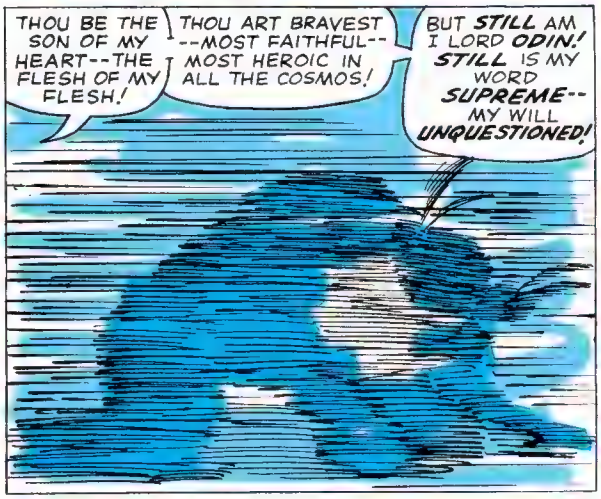

SHE HATH MORE WISDOM THAN THEE, MY SON! THOUGH ASGARD BE HEAVEN ENOW--HER PLACE IS ON EARTH--BELOW!
NO, FATHER--
NO!

I HAVE SPOKEN!

'TIS CLEAR TO ME NOW! THOU DIDST PLAN THE ENTIRE THING!
IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT JANE FOSTER SHOULD BECOME AN IMMORTAL!
STAND THEE BACK, THUNDER GOD! NONE MAY APPROACH THE PRESENCE IN ANGER!
LET HIM BE! MY SON HATH THE RIGHT!
MOST NOBLE THOR-- I UNDERSTAND THY RAGE, THY DISAPPOINTMENT --BUT, 'TIS NOT AS THOU HAST STATED!


MY HEART DOTH GRIEVE FOR THEE! BUT, THOU MUST ENDURE THIS HAPPENSTANCE IN GODLY MANNER!
I SHALL ENDURE NOTHING! I SHALL FOLLOW HER--!
WHAT?!! YOU DARE DISPUTE THE WILL OF ODIN!

THOUGH MY MERCY BE WITHOUT PEER--KNOW YOU MY WRATH IS ALL-CONSUMING!

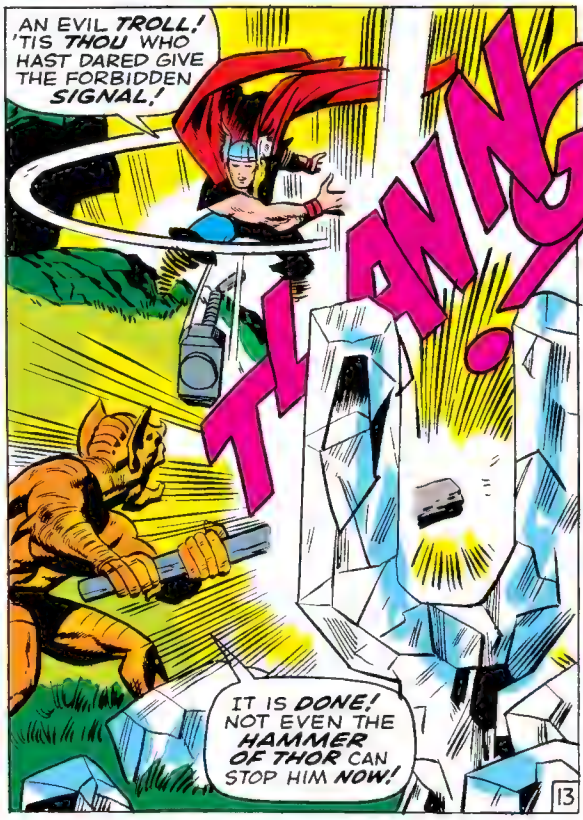

THOU BE THE SON OF MY HEART--THE FLESH OF MY FLESH!
THOU ART BRAVEST --MOST FAITHFUL-- MOST HEROIC IN ALL THE COSMOS!
BUT STILL AM I LORD ODIN! STILL IS MY WORD SUPREME-- MY WILL UNQUESTIONED!

NOW RISE, GOD OF THUNDER! IN THY HEART OF HEARTS THOU KNOWEST GODHOOD WAS NOT FOR ONE SUCH AS SHE!
STILL DO I LOVE HER, MY FATHER! THOUGH SHE BE FRAIL, AND WEAK--HAVE I NOT STRENGTH ENOW FOR THE TWO?

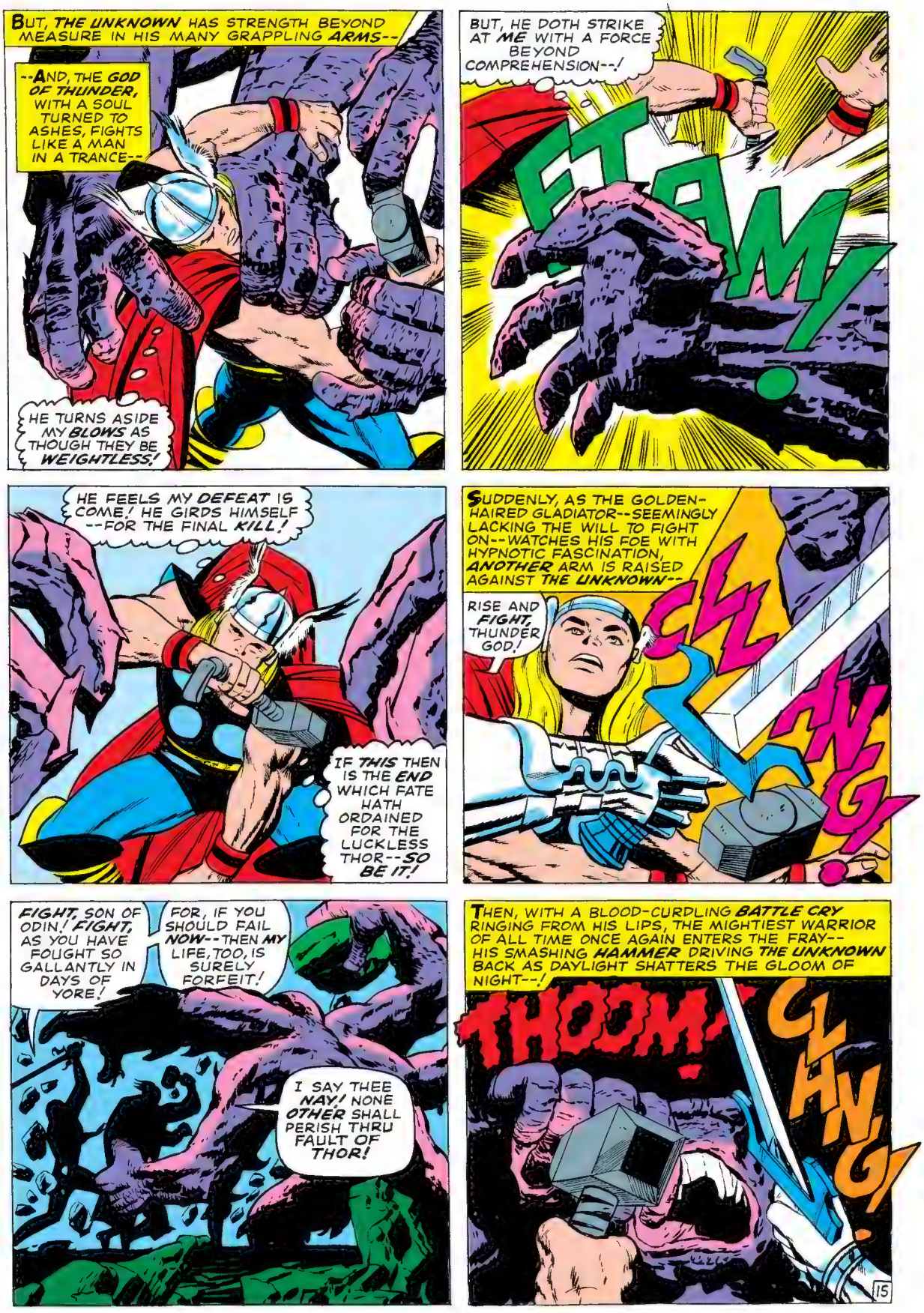
MY POWER IS BEYOND ALL MEASURE--BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION--AND YET, I CANNOT ALTER AN EMOTION OF THE HEART!
BUT, WE SHALL SPEAK OF THIS NO MORE!
SINCE THE UNKNOWN IS NOW AT LARGE, I ORDER THEE ON TO GUNDERSHELM, TO GUARD THE GLADE OF CRYSTALS FROM HIS ATTACK!
'TIS JUST AS WELL! IF FORTUNE LOOKS UPON ME WITH FAVOR, MAYHAP I SHALL FALL IN BATTLE!

WONDROUS IS THE POWER OF ODIN! NO SOONER DO I RAISE MY HEAD, THAN I AM IN THE LAND OF GUNDERSHELM--
ONLY HERE, AT THE EDGE OF THE GLADE OF CRYSTALS, CAN THE UNKNOWN ENTER ASGARD!
I MUST DEVOTE MYSELF TO MY TASK WITH A MIGHTY VENGEANCE--!
FOR, IF I SHOULD DWELL UPON WHAT HATH BEFALLEN, THEN SURELY SHALL I LOSE THE VERY WILL TO LIVE!

NO! THERE IS ONLY ONE REMEDY! ONLY ONE BALM FOR MY ACHING HEART!
I MUST HURL MYSELF INTO BATTLE--FIGHT AS NEVER BEFORE--FIGHT AS ONLY THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN!
TLANNNG!
THAT SOUND! THE CRYSTALS RING! 'TIS THE OMINOUS NOTE WHICH HATH THE POWER TO SUMMON--THE UNKNOWN!


AN EVIL TROLL! 'TIS THOU WHO HAST DARED GIVE THE FORBIDDEN SIGNAL!
TLANNG!
IT IS DONE! NOT EVEN THE HAMMER OF THOR CAN STOP HIM NOW!

AND, EVEN AS MIGHTY THOR HEARS THE THUNDEROUS APPROACH OF THE UNKNOWN, A MYSTIFIED JANE FOSTER FINDS HERSELF IN A BUSTLING HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, SOMEWHERE ON THE WEST COAST--
STRANGE--I SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN WHY I CAME HERE!
AND YET, I KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! I FEEL AS THOUGH FATE IS GUIDING MY FOOTSTEPS!
YOUNG LADY--!
ARE YOU THE NEW RESIDENT NURSE WHO WAS DUE TO ARRIVE TODAY?
ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR TO ME! HOW FOOLISH I WAS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN!
WHY YES, I AM! MY NAME IS JANE FOSTER! I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!
NO--YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME, MY DEAR!
DR. KINCAID, THIS IS NURSE FOSTER--OUR NEW RESIDENT!
THANK YOU, NURSE PARKWELL!
I FEEL SO--SECURE! AS IF--I'VE COME HOME--AT LAST!
PLEASE COME IN, YOUNG LADY!
I'M DR. KINCAID! IT'S MY CUSTOM TO WELCOME THE NEW NURSES AND EXPLAIN THEIR DUTIES TO THEM!
HE'S SO--HANDSOME! I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE--KNOWN HIM--BEFORE!
OR--IS IT JUST THAT I'VE SEEN HIM SO OFTEN--IN MY DREAMS?
I HOPE YOU WILL BE HAPPY HERE WITH US, NURSE FOSTER!
OH, I WILL, DOCTOR! I JUST KNOW I WILL!
THUS, WE BID ADIEU TO LOVELY JANE FOSTER, THE MORTAL GIRL WHOM ODIN, IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM, HAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE--AND LOVE--AND ULTIMATE HAPPINESS!
BUT, WHAT OF THE HEART-SICK THUNDER GOD? LET US RETURN TO THE BATTLING THOR, AS HE WHEELS ABOUT TO CHALLENGE--THE UNKNOWN--!
BACK, THOU NAMELESS, SOULLESS THING OF EVIL! BACK, TO THE STYGIAN NOWHERE FROM WHENCE THOU CAME!


BUT, THE UNKNOWN HAS STRENGTH BEYOND MEASURE IN HIS MANY GRAPPLING ARMS--
--AND, THE GOD OF THUNDER, WITH A SOUL TURNED TO ASHES, FIGHTS LIKE A MAN IN A TRANCE--
HE TURNS ASIDE MY BLOWS AS THOUGH THEY BE WEIGHTLESS!
BUT, HE DOTH STRIKE AT ME WITH A FORCE BEYOND COMPREHENSION--!
KT-A-M!
HE FEELS MY DEFEAT IS COME! HE GIRDS HIMSELF --FOR THE FINAL KILL!
IF THIS THEN IS THE END WHICH FATE HATH ORDAINED FOR THE LUCKLESS THOR--SO BE IT!
SUDDENLY, AS THE GOLDEN-HAIRED GLADIATOR--SEEMINGLY LACKING THE WILL TO FIGHT ON--WATCHES HIS FOE WITH HYPNOTIC FASCINATION, ANOTHER ARM IS RAISED AGAINST THE UNKNOWN--
RISE AND FIGHT, THUNDER GOD!
CL-ANG!
FIGHT, SON OF ODIN! FIGHT, AS YOU HAVE FOUGHT SO GALLANTLY IN DAYS OF YORE!
FOR, IF YOU SHOULD FAIL NOW--THEN MY LIFE, TOO, IS SURELY FORFEIT!
I SAY THEE NAY! NONE OTHER SHALL PERISH THRU FAULT OF THOR!
THEN, WITH A BLOOD-CURDLING BATTLE CRY RINGING FROM HIS LIPS, THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL TIME ONCE AGAIN ENTERS THE FRAY--HIS SMASHING HAMMER DRIVING THE UNKNOWN BACK AS DAYLIGHT SHATTERS THE GLOOM OF NIGHT--!
THOOM!
CL-ANG!
15

FINALLY, WHEN THE HAZE OF WHITE-HOT FURY CLEARS FROM THE TORTURED BRAIN OF THE IMMORTAL AVENGER, HIS STEELY-BLUE EYES BLINK IN ASTONISHMENT--FOR, THE UNKNOWN IS--GONE!
HE HATH BEEN VANQUISHED!
BUT, WHAT OF MY NEWFOUND ALLY?
THOUGH I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR PROWESS SINCE MY BIRTH--NEVER HAVE I BEHELD SO MAGNIFICENT A SIGHT AS--THOR IN BATTLE!
LET ME NOW BEHOLD THE ONE WHOSE BLADE HATH BEEN UNSHEATHED IN THOR'S BEHALF!
BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN--'TIS A FEMALE! --SO BEAUTEOUS AS TO STAGGER EVEN A GOD!
ART THOU TRULY REAL--OR MERELY A VISION OF LOVELINESS, CONJURED IN DESPERATION BY THE AGONY OF A BREAKING HEART?
YOU KNEW ME ONCE, MANY YEARS AGO!
--AS TODAY YOU KNOW MY BROTHER --THE EVER-FAITHFUL HEIMDALL!
CAN IT BE--? THOU ART SIF! THE RAVEN-TRESSED CHILD WHOM ONCE I DANGLED UPON MY KNEE!
BUT, BY MY MALLET --THOU ART CHILD NO LONGER!
AS A YOUNG GIRL--SILENTLY WATCHING YOU GALLOP INTO BATTLE, I HAVE LOVED YOU, SON OF ODIN! I HAVE LOVED YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR STRENGTH--YOUR MATCHLESS COURAGE--AS ONLY A CHILD CAN LOVE!
BUT, NOW YOU HAVE CHANGED! AN AURA OF SORROW PERVADES YOUR MANNER--!
AY! EVEN A GOD MAY KNOW THE PANGS OF DESPAIR!
SIF, TOO, HAS BEEN NO STRANGER TO HEARTBREAK! EVER SINCE CHILDHOOD HAVE I SUFFERED THE ACHE OF LOVE UNREQUITED!
--A HOPELESS LOVE-- FOR ONE WHO EVER HAD EYES FOR ANOTHER-- ONE TO WHOM SIF WAS NAUGHT BUT A FORGOTTEN MEMORY!
MINE EARS HEAR THY WORDS--BUT MY HEART CANNOT BELIEVE THAT ANY COULD FORGET ONE SUCH AS THEE!
THOU ART FAIR BEYOND MEASURE --VALIANT AS ONLY A GODDESS CAN BE--AND I, LOVELY SIF, HAVE BEEN BLINDEST OF ALL WHO DWELL IN THE GOLDEN REALM!
VERILY, THOU HAST RESTORED THE LUST FOR LIFE TO THE SMOLDERING SOUL OF AN ERRANT THUNDER GOD!
AND YOU, MY LORD, HAVE REKINDLED AN EMOTION I FEARED HAD BEEN LOST TO ME FOREVER!
16
THEN, AS MIGHTY THOR AND THE STUNNING SIF TURN AND WALK INTO THE GATHERING TWILIGHT...
IN THINE INFINITE WISDOM, SIRE, THOU HAST THIS DAY PERFORMED A SEEMING MIRACLE!
NAY, NOT SO! I DID BUT PROVIDE THE TIME--THE SETTING--
BUT, ONLY IN THE HEART CAN BE FOUND THE FINAL, ENCHANTED INGREDIENT--MEN CALL LOVE!
AND SO SAY WE ALL!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

# "THERE SHALL COME A MIRACLE!"

AT THE ROYAL COURT OF *ASGARD*, ETERNAL DOMAIN OF HIM WHO IS THE POWER... WHO IS THE JUDGEMENT... HIM WHO IS NOW AND EVERMORE *ODIN*, THE *ALL-WISE*... THE MOST AWESOMELY HEEDED VOICE IN ALL THE COSMOS SHATTERS THE SILENCE, AND ANOTHER TALE BEGINS...

EVIL *FAFNIR*, DEPOSED KING OF NASTROND, WHOM I SENTENCED TO DEATH AGES AGO, STILL *LIVES*... IN THE FORM OF YONDER *DRAGON!*

BUT, EVEN WHILST WE *WATCH*, THE TRUE SON OF MY HEART... MIGHTY *THOR*... AND HIS MOST NOBLE COMPANIONS, SHALL VANQUISH FAFNIR *FORE'ER!*

SUCH IS THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF *ODIN*, THY RIGHTFUL LIEGE OF ALL THE REALM!

GARNISHED WITH GLORY IN THE MARVEL TRADITION BY:

**STAN LEE** and **JACK KIRBY**

DELINEATED BY: **Vince COLLETTA** • LETTERED BY: **Sam ROSEN**

THOUGH BUFFETED BY DEADLY TONGUES OF FLAME FROM HIS BESTIAL FOE, THE GOD OF THUNDER STANDS---UNYIELDING.. IMPLACABLE---TO HIS VERY CORE A WARRIOR BORN!
AND, IN SUM AND SUBSTANCE, HE DOTH FULL WELL KNOW 'TIS MORE THAN LIFE.. MORE THAN HIS CHERISHED IMMORTALITY IN THE OFFING...
FOR, ONLY WITH THE SLAYING OF THE ACCURSED FAFNIR SHALL THE LAND OF NASTROND KNOW A MIRACLE---A MIRACLE WHICH IT HATH AWAITED LO, THESE COUNTLESS AGES!
A MIRACLE, MOST NOBLE SIRE?
AY, SUCH AS THOU SHALT BEHOLD, SHOULD THE FATES FAVOR THY PRINCE WITH VICTORY!
AND, EVEN AS THE STAGGERING TABLEAU UNFOLDS UPON THE ETERNA-SCREEN OF THE CASTLE ROYAL---
SKRAK!
NOW AT LAST MY VENGEANCE IS AT HAND! NOW AT LAST THE SON OF ODIN DIES!
HE DOTH TEAR ASUNDER THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE HIM WITH A STRENGTH UNSURPASSED BY ANY WHO LIVE!
2.

FANDRAL! HOGUN! STAND YE BACK!
CERTAIN DEATH AWAITS US IF THE VILE FAFNIR BE NOT SPEEDILY DESTROYED!
ONLY THE POUNDING POWER OF MY ENCHANTED HAMMER MAY YET PREVAIL---!

LET THE GROUND BELOW ME SHATTER!! LET THE SKIES ABOVE BE RENT ASUNDER!!
LET THE FURY OF THE STORM, THE DEADLY STING OF LIGHTNING, STRIKE..AS COMMANDS THE GOD OF THUNDER!
FTOOOM!

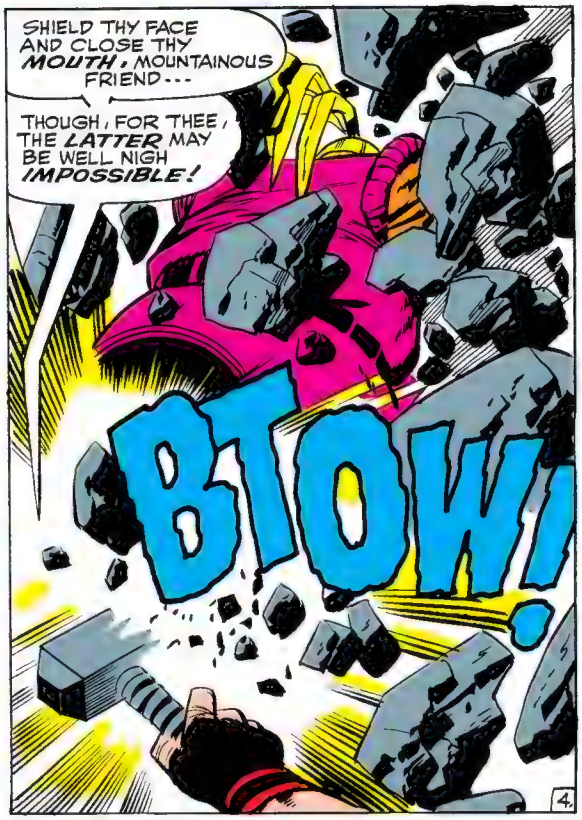
NEVER WITHIN MEMORY OF MAN OR IMMORTAL HAS SUCH A STORM BEEN UNLEASHED WITHIN THE KNOWN COSMOS! FROM EVERY PART OF THE SKY ABOVE, POTENT FINGERS OF FLASHING LIGHTNING LASH OUT AT THE STARTLED UNCOMPREHENDING FAFNIR ---
ZZZIIISSST!

UNTIL, AT LAST, AS THOUGH THE GROUND ITSELF CAN NO LONGER BEAR THE AWESOME ASSAULT, A GIGANTIC CHASM YAWNS BENEATH THE HELPLESS FEET OF THE DRAGON---THE DRAGON WHICH ONCE HAD BEEN...A MAN!
CRAKKK!

THE DRAGON IS VANQUISHED!!
BUT, WHAT OF THE MISSING VOLSTAGG?
WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN CAVE YONDER---A BELLOW ISSUES FORTH---AS FROM A BRAYING MULE IN DIREST PAIN!
NAY! NO MERE BEAST OF BURDEN WAS EVER CURSED WITH SUCH A VOICE!
IF THEN HE BE NOT BEAST, ONE ANSWER---AND ONE ALONE DOTH REMAIN---

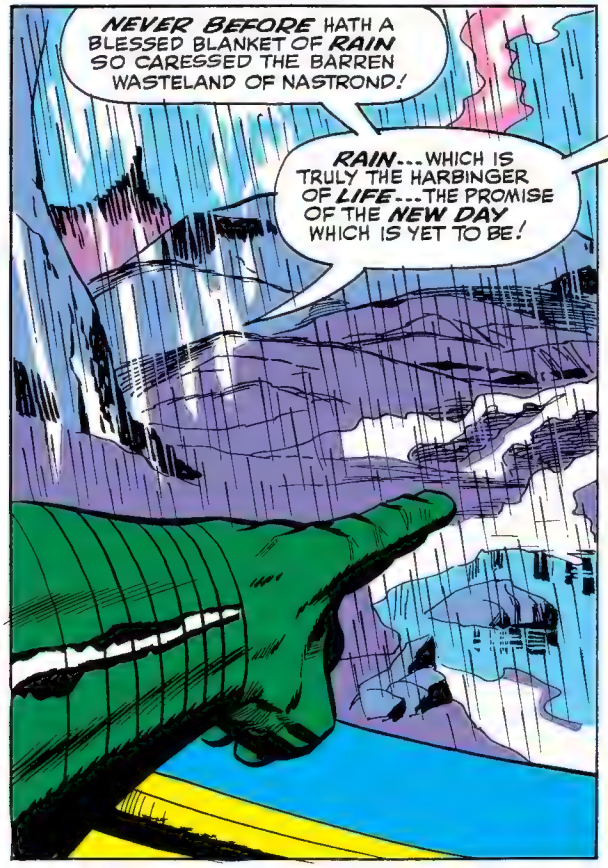
...'TIS THE VOLUMINOUS VOLSTAGG---VERITABLY IMPRISONED WITHIN A CAGE OF ROUGH-HEWN STONE..!
THOR! HOGUN! FANDRAL! BE OF STOUT HEART, ONE AND ALL!
THE UNMATCHED STRENGTH OF VOLSTAGG SOON SHALL SHATTER YON IGNOBLE CAGE, AND I SHALL RESCUE THEE FORTHWITH!

THINE INTENTIONS WARM THE VERY COCKLES OF OUR HEARTS, MOST VOLUBLE ONE...
STILL, SINCE TIME BE OF THE ESSENCE---
I SHALL AID THEE IN THY NOBLE ENDEAVOR!
HOW NOW?!! TO SPEAK SO OF GIVING AID TO VOLSTAGG IS AKIN TO GIVING THE PEACOCK AN EXTRA FEATHER---THE PORCUPINE AN EXTRA QUILL!


SHIELD THY FACE AND CLOSE THY MOUTH, MOUNTAINOUS FRIEND---
THOUGH, FOR THEE, THE LATTER MAY BE WELL NIGH IMPOSSIBLE!
BTOW!

WITHIN A MATTER OF FLEET SECONDS, THE FABLED QUARTET, MOUNTED ONCE MORE, GALLOPS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE LAND OF NASTROND... A LAND STILL WRACKED BY STORM AND SEARED BY FLASHING FLAME --!
OUR TASK IS ENDED! NOW, NAUGHT BUT THE PROMISED MIRACLE REMAINS!
OF WHAT MANNER OF MIRACLE HAST THOU BEEN FORETOLD?
I KNOW NOT ITS NATURE... BUT THE SACRED WORD OF ODIN HATH BEEN SO PLEDGED!

'TIS DONE, MY LORD!
YET, MINE EYES DO NOT PERCEIVE THE MIRACLE OF WHICH THOU HAST SPOKEN!
THINE EYES ARE WITNESS TO IT EVEN NOW!
'TIS THE VERY SIGHT THOU DOEST GAZE UPON!


NEVER BEFORE HATH A BLESSED BLANKET OF RAIN SO CARESSED THE BARREN WASTELAND OF NASTROND!
RAIN... WHICH IS TRULY THE HARBINGER OF LIFE... THE PROMISE OF THE NEW DAY WHICH IS YET TO BE!

AND, IN TIME TO COME, THE SOIL SHALL TURN GREEN ONCE MORE... THE GRASS SHALL GROW, AND PLANTS SHALL SPROUT ABOVE THE PLACE WHERE FAFNIR FELL! FOR, SUCH IS THE WAY OF LIFE... LIFE UNIVERSAL... WHICH CAN NEVER VANISH WHILST FAITH ENDURES!
NEXT ISSUE:
"A GRIM SECRET HATH HOGUN!"

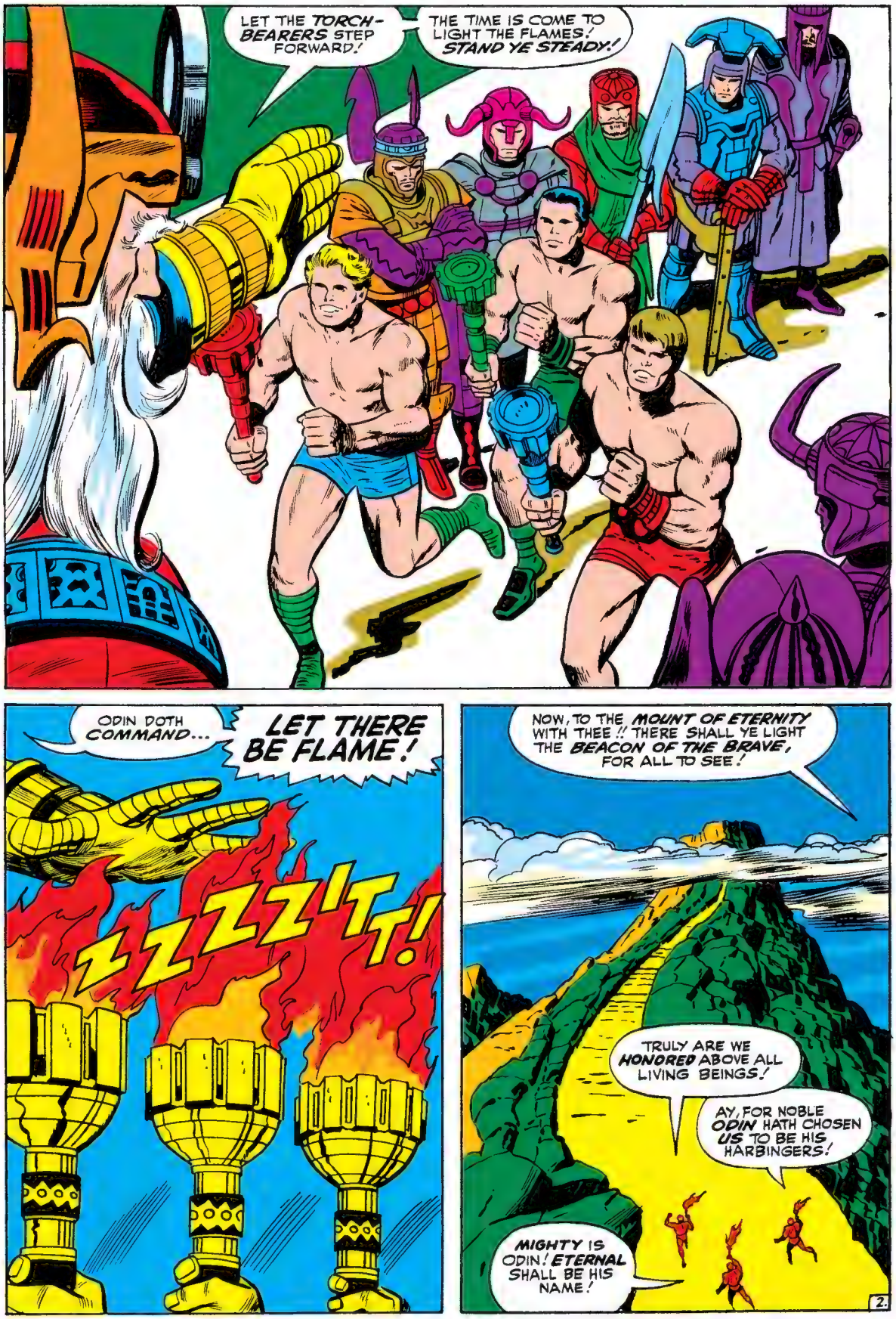
THOR SPECIAL
MORE PAGES! MORE THRILLS!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
KING-SIZE SPECIAL!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE MIGHTY
THOR
SEPT.
#2
1966
IND.
25¢
WHO DARES DEFY... THE DESTROYER?
ALL NEW!
EXTRA!!
RE-PRESENTING: THE VERY FIRST APPEARANCES OF THE VICEROYS OF VILLAINY...
THE ENCHANTRESS AND THE EXECUTIONER!
THE MAD MERLIN!

# THE MIGHTY THOR!

# "IF ASGARD FALLS..."

HEAR ME, HEROES OF THE REALM!
THE TOURNAMENT OF TITANS WILL SOON BEGIN! TO THE WINNER OF EACH EVENT WILL BE GIVEN A SUIT OF GOLDEN ARMOR... PROCLAIMING HIM A CHAMPION OF ASGARD!
LET THE NEWS ISSUE FORTH... I HEREBY SUMMON EVERY WARRIOR, FROM, EVERY LAND! ODIN HATH SPOKEN! SO BE IT!
FEATURING: THE ALMOST UNSPEAKABLE MENACE OF...
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE DESTROYER!

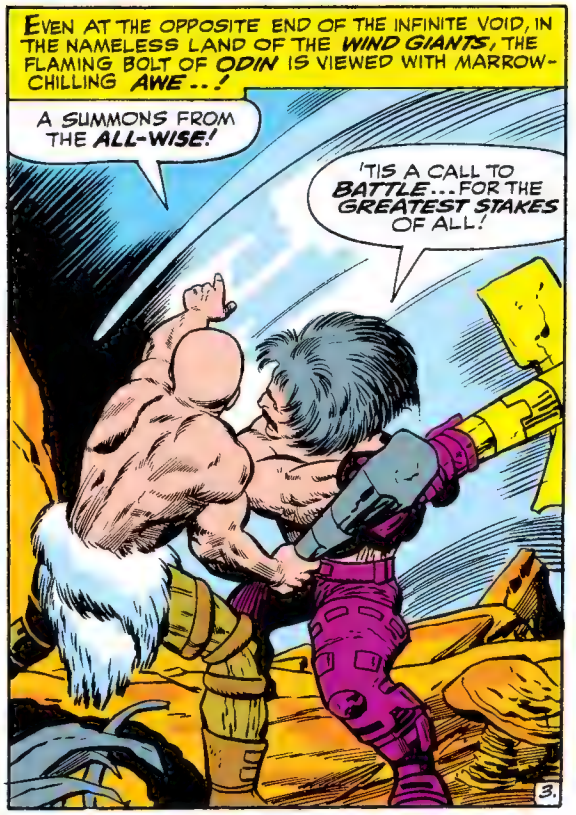
SCRIPTED in SOLEMN SPLENDOR By: **STAN LEE**
ILLUSTRATED in IDEALISTIC IMAGERY By: **JACK KIRBY**
DELINEATED in DELICIOUS DELICACY By: **VINCE COLLETTA**
LETTERED in LIVING LUMINESCENCE By: **SAM ROSEN**
UNAFFECTED BY THE UNABASHED UTTERANCES of: **IRVING FORBUSH**

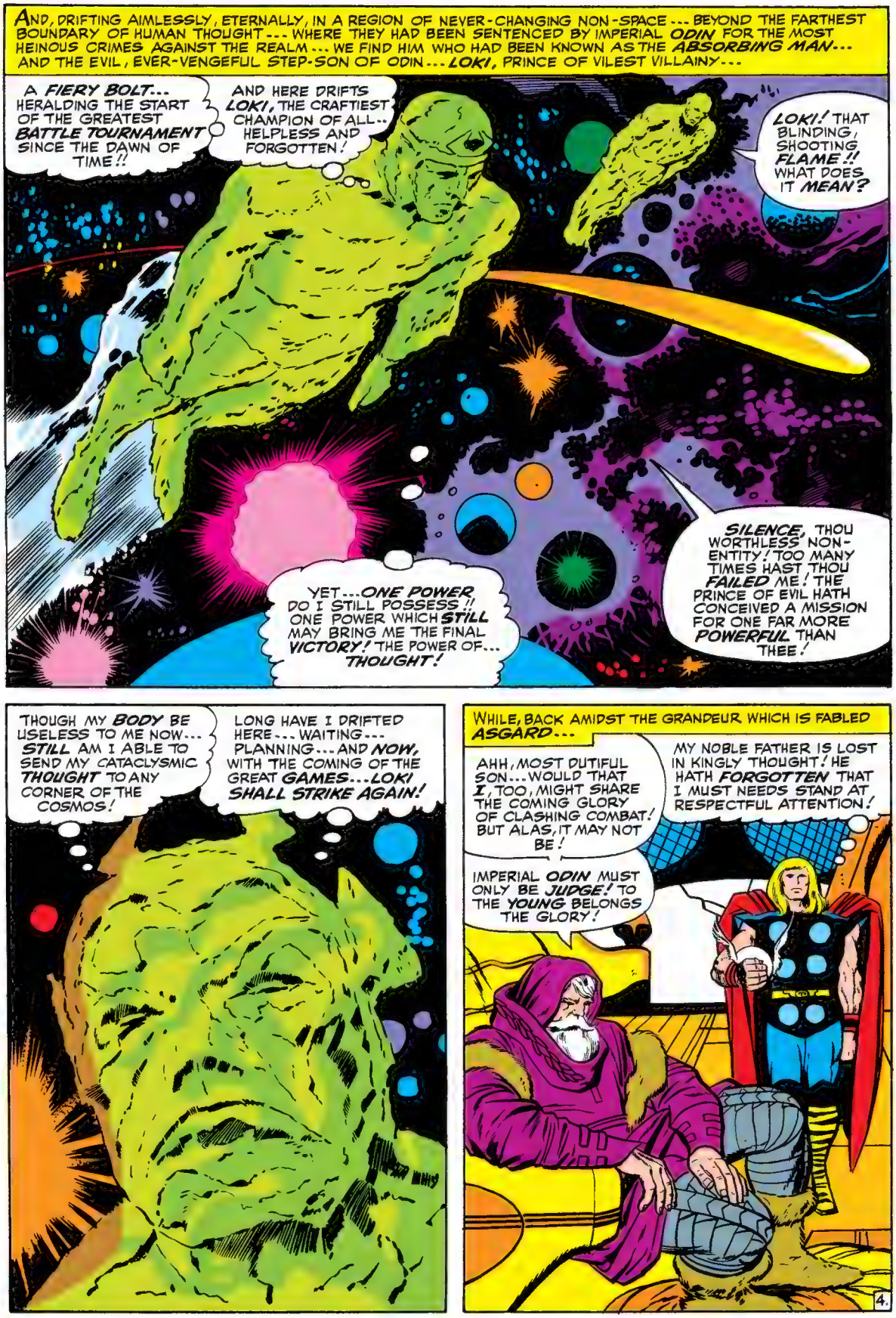

LET THE TORCH-BEARERS STEP FORWARD!
THE TIME IS COME TO LIGHT THE FLAMES! STAND YE STEADY!
ODIN DOTH COMMAND...
LET THERE BE FLAME!
ZZZZZT!
NOW, TO THE MOUNT OF ETERNITY WITH THEE!! THERE SHALL YE LIGHT THE BEACON OF THE BRAVE, FOR ALL TO SEE!
TRULY ARE WE HONORED ABOVE ALL LIVING BEINGS!
AY, FOR NOBLE ODIN HATH CHOSEN US TO BE HIS HARBINGERS!
MIGHTY IS ODIN! ETERNAL SHALL BE HIS NAME!
2.

THE BEACON IS LIT!
ITS GLOW SHALL BE SEEN IN EVERY CORNER OF THE COSMOS!
THUS DO WE PROCLAIM FOREVER THE GLORY THAT IS ASGARD!

IT IS DONE! NOW SHALL WE AWAIT THE COMING OF THE MIGHTIEST WARRIORS IN ALL OF CREATION!

AND SO IT BEGINS! IN FAR OFF GYMIRSGARD, THE FIRST CRY IS GIVEN...
A FIERY BOLT FROM HALLOWED ASGARD!
THE WORD MUST BE SPREAD...THE TIME OF TRIAL IS COME!


EVEN AT THE OPPOSITE END OF THE INFINITE VOID, IN THE NAMELESS LAND OF THE WIND GIANTS, THE FLAMING BOLT OF ODIN IS VIEWED WITH MARROW-CHILLING AWE..!
A SUMMONS FROM THE ALL-WISE!
'TIS A CALL TO BATTLE...FOR THE GREATEST STAKES OF ALL!


AND, DRIFTING AIMLESSLY, ETERNALLY, IN A REGION OF NEVER-CHANGING NON-SPACE --- BEYOND THE FARTHEST BOUNDARY OF HUMAN THOUGHT --- WHERE THEY HAD BEEN SENTENCED BY IMPERIAL ODIN FOR THE MOST HEINOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE REALM --- WE FIND HIM WHO HAD BEEN KNOWN AS THE ABSORBING MAN --- AND THE EVIL, EVER-VENGEFUL STEP-SON OF ODIN --- LOKI, PRINCE OF VILEST VILLAINY ---
A FIERY BOLT... HERALDING THE START OF THE GREATEST BATTLE TOURNAMENT SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!!
AND HERE DRIFTS LOKI, THE CRAFTIEST CHAMPION OF ALL -- HELPLESS AND FORGOTTEN!
LOKI! THAT BLINDING, SHOOTING FLAME!! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
SILENCE, THOU WORTHLESS NON-ENTITY! TOO MANY TIMES HAST THOU FAILED ME! THE PRINCE OF EVIL HATH CONCEIVED A MISSION FOR ONE FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN THEE!
YET... ONE POWER DO I STILL POSSESS!! ONE POWER WHICH STILL MAY BRING ME THE FINAL VICTORY! THE POWER OF... THOUGHT!
THOUGH MY BODY BE USELESS TO ME NOW... STILL AM I ABLE TO SEND MY CATACLYSMIC THOUGHT TO ANY CORNER OF THE COSMOS!
LONG HAVE I DRIFTED HERE... WAITING... PLANNING... AND NOW, WITH THE COMING OF THE GREAT GAMES... LOKI SHALL STRIKE AGAIN!
WHILE, BACK AMIDST THE GRANDEUR WHICH IS FABLED ASGARD...
AHH, MOST DUTIFUL SON... WOULD THAT I, TOO, MIGHT SHARE THE COMING GLORY OF CLASHING COMBAT! BUT ALAS, IT MAY NOT BE!
IMPERIAL ODIN MUST ONLY BE JUDGE! TO THE YOUNG BELONGS THE GLORY!
MY NOBLE FATHER IS LOST IN KINGLY THOUGHT! HE HATH FORGOTTEN THAT I MUST NEEDS STAND AT RESPECTFUL ATTENTION!
4.

YET, WELL DO I REMEMBER THOSE HALLOWED DAYS OF YORE... WHEN THE BLUDGEONING BLADE OF ODIN DID STRIKE WITH THE FURY OF A THOUSAND STORMS! 'TWAS THEN THE SUMMER OF MY LIFE... WHEN TALL AND STRAIGHT AS AN OAK STOOD ODIN!
SSSSSSTT!
SOMEONE SEEKS TO GAIN THE NOTICE OF THOR..!
AHH... WELL MIGHT I HAVE GUESSED WHO 'TWOULD BE!
'TIS A TIME FOR RIOTOUS REVELING, THUNDER GOD! WE AWAIT THY PRESENCE!
THERE IS MUCH BRAWLING AND CAREFREE CAROUSING TO BE DONE 'ERE THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS!
FANDRAL... CEASE THY WIGGLING, OR VOLSTAGG SHALL SHAKE THEE LIKE A FLEA!
SILENCE, ENORMOUS ONE! THY BOOMING TONES MAY REACH THE EARS OF ODIN, HIMSELF!
AND NOW, THOUGH MINSTRELS STILL SING OF ODIN'S FEATS... WHILE CAMPFIRES FLICKER... THY FATHER HATH REACHED THE TWILIGHT OF HIS YEARS...
'TIS FOR THE YOUNG TO SEIZE THE TORCH OF GALLANTRY, AND HOLD IT HIGH! THUS HAS IT EVER BEEN! THUS SHALL IT EVER BE! EVEN THE AGING LION MUST ONE DAY ALLOW THE EAGER CUB TO LEAD THE HUNT!
NOT YET!! AWAY... GET THEE AWAY! MY LIEGE HATH NOT DISMISSED ME!
WHAT IS THIS? THE ATTENTION OF THE THUNDER GOD DOTH SEEM TO FALTER!
AHHH, SON OF MY HEART... I HAVE DETAINED THEE TOO LONG
FULL WELL DOTH ODIN REMEMBER THE RIOTOUS CELEBRATION IN WHICH THE WARRIORS PARTAKE ON THE EVE OF BATTLE!
GET THEE HENCE, VALIANT THOR! I'LL SEE THEE ANON!
THEN, BY YOUR LEAVE, MOST NOBLE MONARCH!
5.

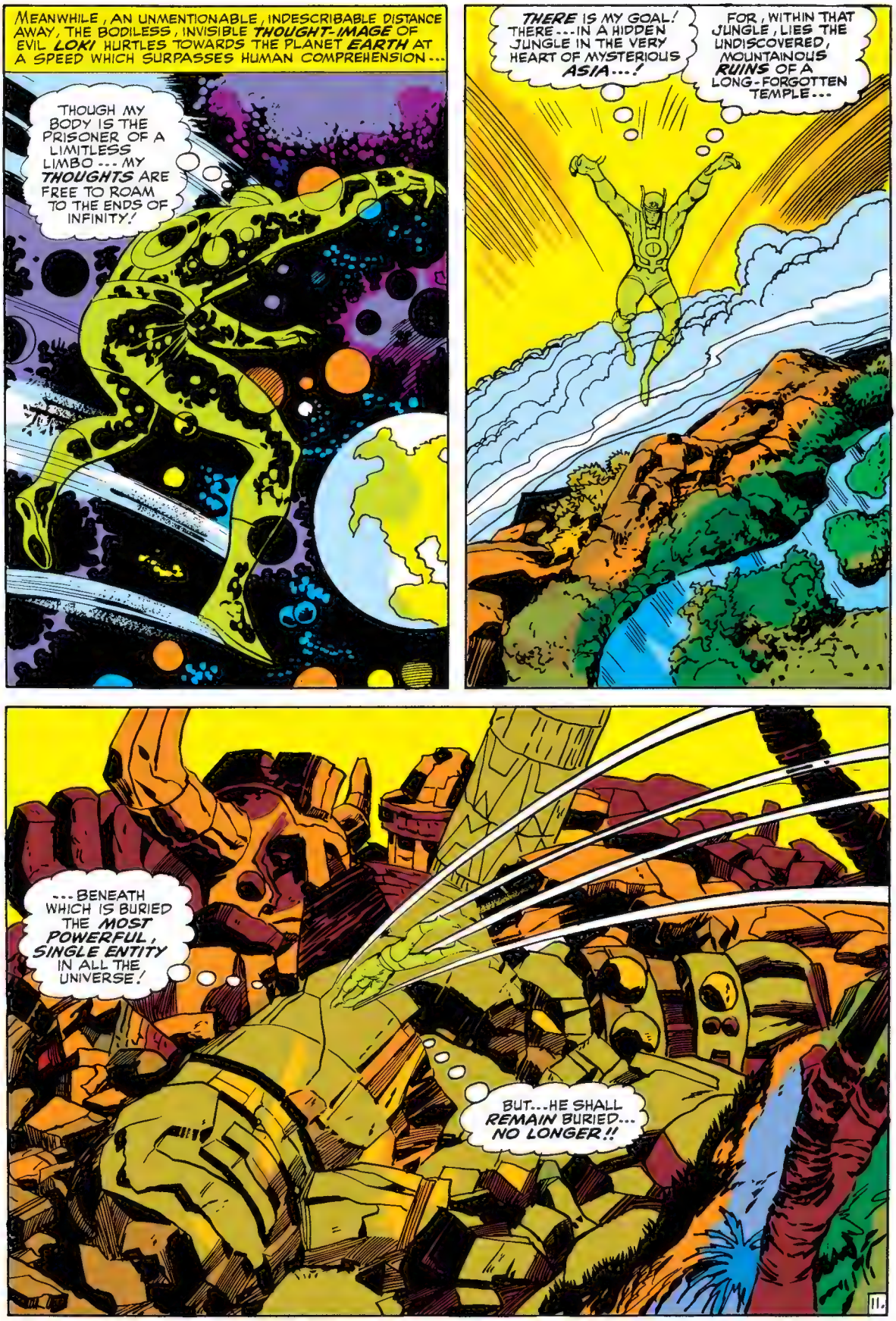
AND, AS THE GOD OF THUNDER EAGERLY JOINS HIS COLORFUL COMPANIONS...
EVEN I...OMNIPOTENT LORD OF ALL I SURVEY...MUST SUFFER THE PANGS OF BITTER DESPAIR!
FOR, THOUGH MIGHTY THOR DOTH TRULY GLADDEN ODIN'S HEART.. STILL AM I FATHER TO ANOTHER...THE EVIL LOKI!
A TOAST THEN, TO THE SONS OF ODIN!
MAY THE FRUITS OF VICTORY BE EVER HARVESTED BY THE GALLANT THOR!
FOR HE, ABOVE ALL, ART TRULY A GOD AMONGST GODS!
AND, MAY THE SHAME OF LOKI PROCLAIM TO THE WORLD THAT EVEN ODIN HATH TASTED OF THE CUP OF SORROW... AND DISMAL FAILURE!
BUT, ENOUGH OF SUCH SORDID SOLILOQUIZING! WE HAVE A GLORY-DRENCHED TALE TO TELL...THE LIKE OF WHICH YOUR MORTAL EYES HAVE NEVER BEFORE BEHELD...AND TELL IT NOW WE SHALL...!
FROM GALAXIES WITHOUT END WARRIORS DO POUR INTO ETERNAL ASGARD... HOPING TO WIN THE COVETED SUITS OF GOLDEN ARMOR!
AY! THIS SHALL TRULY BE THE MOST MAGNIFICENT TOURNEY OF ALL!
TO HOGUN THE GRIM, ONE TOURNEY IS LIKE ANOTHER!
NOT SO WITH VALOROUS VOLSTAGG! THIS SHALL BE MY HOUR OF SUPREME TRIUMPH! AT LAST I SHALL PROVE THAT I AM EVERY BIT AS POWERFUL AS I AM UNDENIABLY HANDSOME!
IF HIS POWER WERE THE EQUAL OF HIS GIRTH, VOLSTAGG WOULD BE FEARED BY ODIN HIMSELF!

KAROOM!
WHAT IS THIS ?!! KNOW THEY NOT THAT BRAWLING IS FORBIDDEN ERE THE GAMES HAVE STARTED ?
BUT, IF BRAWL THEY MUST.. LET IT BE WITH US! THE BLADE OF FANDRAL FAIR CRIES OUT TO BE DRAWN!
BASE YARLET!! YOU DARE OPPOSE THE WILL OF BROK, THE CRUSHER!!
STAND YE BACK, ALL !! BROK BODES NO INTERFERENCE WHEN HE HAS HIS SPORT!
SPORT ?? TO FLAY UPON SMALLER FOES ?? THOR CALLS IT COWARDICE!
AND FANDRAL THE DASHING ECHOES THE WORDS OF THE THUNDER GOD!
HAH! NOW SHALT THOU PAY FOR THINE UN-WARRANTED ATTACK!
7.

FIE!! THE BONE-CRUSHING BROK FEARS NO PUNY SCIONS OF ASGARD! DRAGONS DO FLEE AT MY APPROACH!
DRAGONS PERHAPS... BUT NOT SO THE SON OF ODIN!
NOR HOGUN THE GRIM!
NOR FANDRAL... WHO CLAIMS THEE FIRST!
BRAGGART, CHOOSE THY WEAPON! THE BLADE OF FANDRAL SHALL HEW THEE DOWN TO SIZE WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING COBRA!
THOUGH, 'TIS POOR PAYMENT, INDEED, FOR ONE WHO SHALL AFFORD ME SUCH PRICELESS AMUSEMENT!
IF THY WEAPON BE THE SWORD, THEN I SHALL STRIKE FOR BROK!
FOR I BE TYR, OF THE BLINDING BLADE---MOST DEADLY SWORDSMAN IN THE THOUSAND GALAXIES!
UNSPEAKABLE KNAVE!! THOUGH THOU WERT TWICE AS GOOD AS THY BOAST, STILL WOULDST THOU BE BUT HALF A MATCH FOR FANDRAL!
FOPPISH FOOL! I'LL QUARTER THEE LIKE A SACK OF GRAIN!
LET ME STILL HIS MOUTH WITH MY POUNDING MACE!
AH NO, GRIM ONE! THIS SPORT IS TOO DELICIOUS! THE BUMPKIN DOTH POSSESS SOME SKILL---THOUGH IT PALES BESIDE THE WIZARDRY OF FANDRAL!
SSSSSSSSWIT
8.

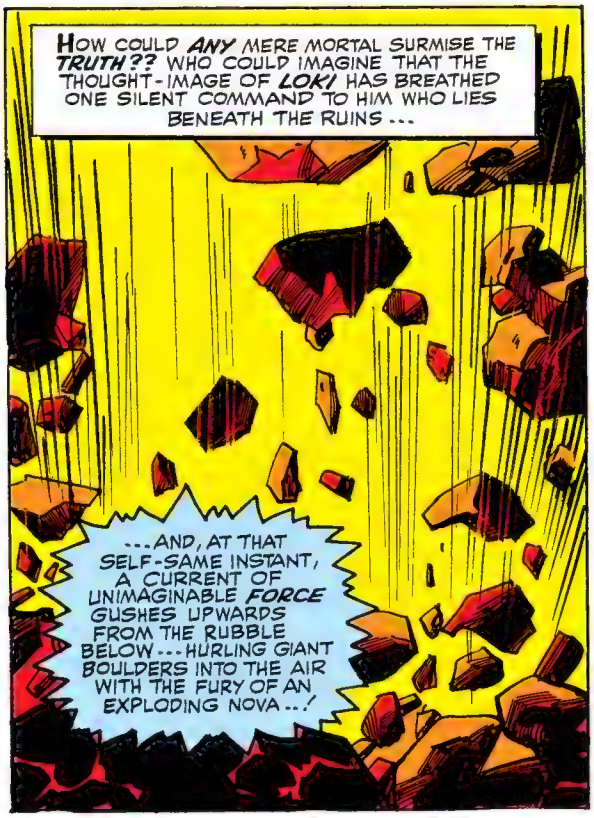
HOGUN THE GRIM !! I HAVE HEARD OF THEE AND THY PUNY MACE! 'TIS I THOU SHALT BATTLE --- NOT MY BROTHER TYR!
FOR MEN CALL ME GALP--- OF THE STEEL ARM!
THOOM!
KNOW THEN, GALP...THERE ARE ARMS MORE MIGHTY THAN THOSE OF STEEL!
WHAT? THOU DOTH FORCE ME BACK? FOR THAT, THE PAYMENT MUST BE THY LIFE!
NOTHING DO I HOLD MORE CHEAP--- BUT NOTHING SHALL COST THEE SO DEAR!
HAVE AT THEE THEN--- DOOMED ONE!
HOLD!! STAND THOU ASIDE! HEED THE WORDS I SAY TO THEE!
THOU ART VERILY A TROLL!
WHY DOST THOU INTERFERE, MY BROTHER?
I AM DROM, KNOWN AS THE SPIRIT-WEAVER!
I AM BROTHER TO BROK, AS I AM TO TYR AND THE MIGHTY GALP!
WE COME FROM THE WORLD OF A THOUSAND GALAXIES... AND BATTLE IS OUR FOOD, AND OUR DRINK, AND OUR VERY LIVES!
BUT, THIS IS NOT THE TIME--- NOR, IS IT THE PLACE!
LET US OPPOSE EACH OTHER AT THE TOURNEY, WHERE OUR CERTAIN TRIUMPH SHALL EARN MY BROTHERS AND MYSELF THE SUITS OF GOLDEN ARMOR!
9.

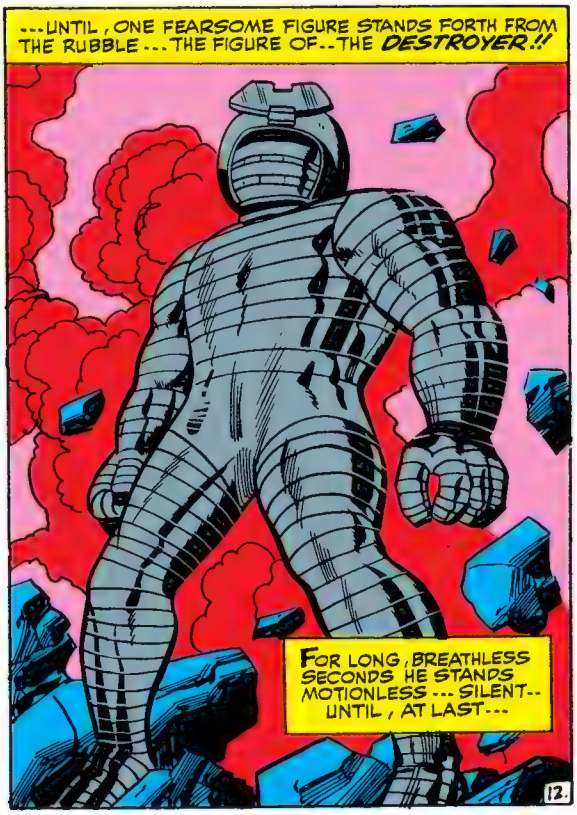
AGREED! I SHALL CHOOSE YON GRINNING FOP TO BE MY VICTIM!
AND I SELECT HOGUN! AFTER TESTING THE STRENGTH OF GALP, HE SHALL HAVE REASON INDEED TO BE SO GRIM!
NONE BUT THOR SHALL DO FOR BROK! I SHALL CRUSH THE SON OF ODIN WITH A SINGLE BLOW!
WHAT?!! ALL THE FOES HAVE THUS BEEN CHOSEN? HOW MONUMENTAL IS THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF VALOROUS VOLSTAGG!
THE BLADE OF TYR SHALL WRITE FINIS TO HIS POMPOUS SWASH-BUCKLING!
THOU COULDST HAVE SPARED THYSELF SUCH DISAPPOINTMENT BY NOT WATCHING FROM A SAFE DISTANCE, THOU OVERSTUFFED CABBAGE!
ONCE AGAIN THE LION-HEARTED VOLSTAGG HATH BEEN WRONGED BY A FRIEND!
BUT THERE IS YET NO FOE FOR DROM!! EVEN A TROLL MAY LUST FOR BATTLE!
STAND ASIDE, ALL!
THE TIME HATH COME FOR VOLSTAGG TO PROVE HE FEARS NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST! I, TOO, SHALL CHOOSE A FOE!
ONLY MY MATCHLESS COURAGE IS THE EQUAL OF MY INCOMPARABLE SKILL AND STRENGTH!
SINCE YOU ALONE REMAIN --- I DO NOT QUESTION THE WILL OF FATE!
FEARLESS VOLSTAGG SHALL NOT SHIRK THE DEADLY ORDEAL! I SHALL CHALLENGE YOU!
THINK TWICE, BUFFOON!
PERHAPS THERE BE ONE YET SMALLER THAN I!
NAY! SIZE MEANS NOTHING!
BIG AS THOU ART, I SHALL FIGHT THEE!
10.

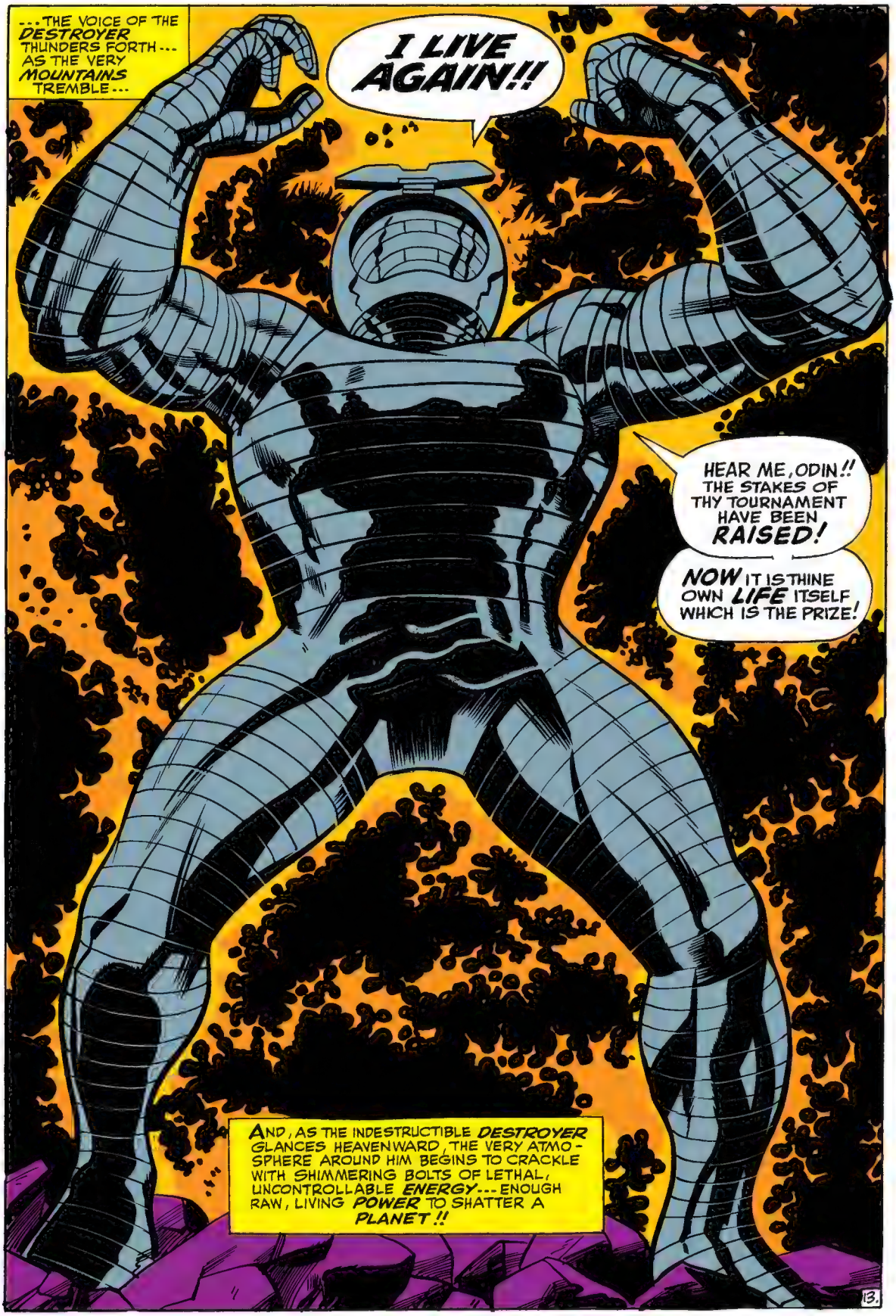

MEANWHILE, AN UNMENTIONABLE, INDESCRIBABLE DISTANCE AWAY, THE BODILESS, INVISIBLE THOUGHT-IMAGE OF EVIL LOKI HURTLES TOWARDS THE PLANET EARTH AT A SPEED WHICH SURPASSES HUMAN COMPREHENSION...
THOUGH MY BODY IS THE PRISONER OF A LIMITLESS LIMBO... MY THOUGHTS ARE FREE TO ROAM TO THE ENDS OF INFINITY!
THERE IS MY GOAL! THERE...IN A HIDDEN JUNGLE IN THE VERY HEART OF MYSTERIOUS ASIA...!
FOR, WITHIN THAT JUNGLE, LIES THE UNDISCOVERED, MOUNTAINOUS RUINS OF A LONG-FORGOTTEN TEMPLE...
...BENEATH WHICH IS BURIED THE MOST POWERFUL, SINGLE ENTITY IN ALL THE UNIVERSE!
BUT...HE SHALL REMAIN BURIED... NO LONGER!!
11

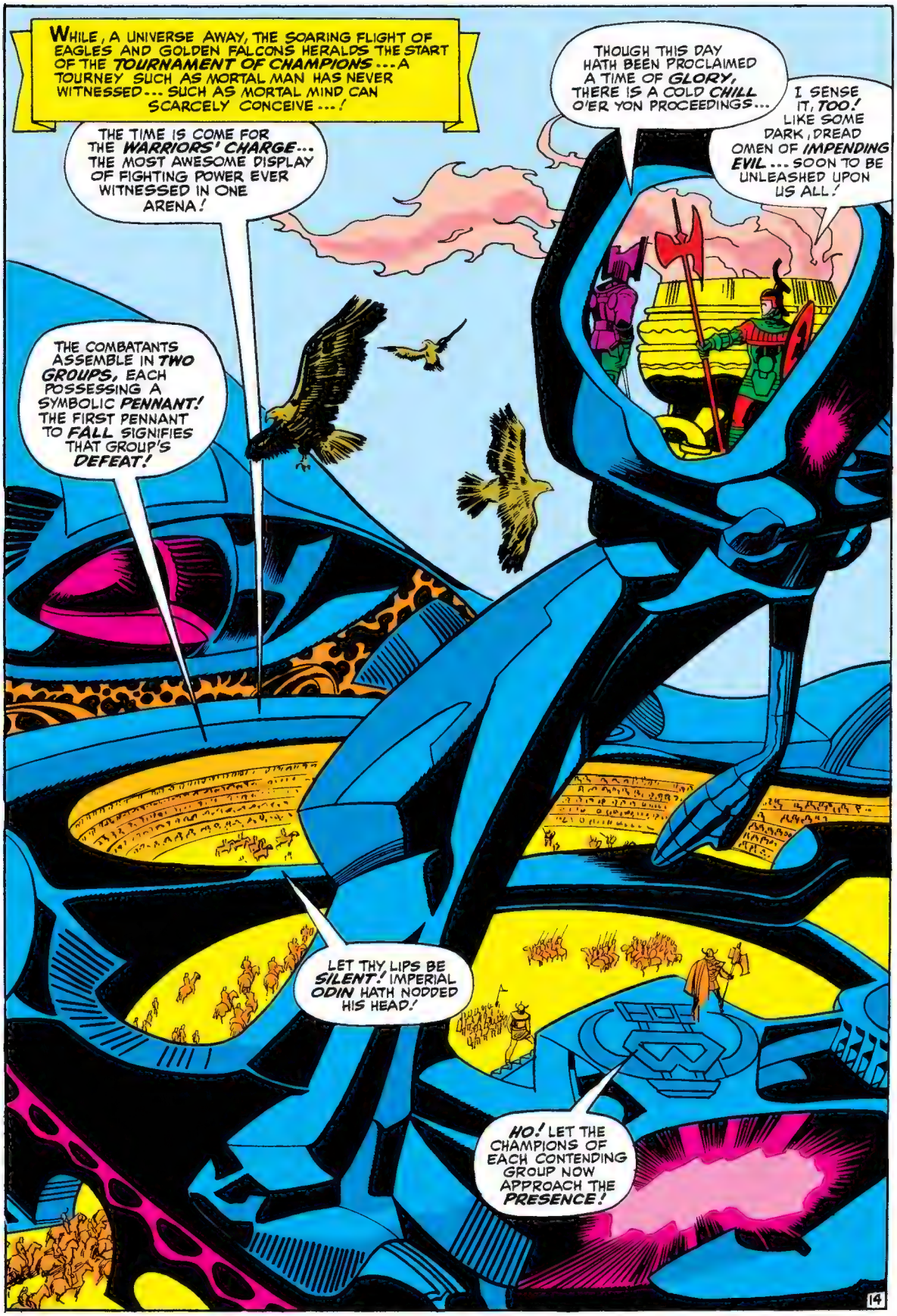
AT THAT MOMENT, AMONG THE FORBIDDING RUINS, A BAND OF MOUNTAIN MARAUDERS CAUTIOUSLY PROWL..
THERE IS LOOT ENOUGH TO BE STOLEN FROM PASSING TRAVELLERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!
IT IS WHISPERED THAT A TREASURE LIES BURIED HERE... AND HE WHO FINDS IT SHALL FIND POWER GREATER THAN ANY MAN HAS EVER KNOWN!
WHY THEN DO WE SET FOOT IN THIS PLACE WHERE DEMONS DWELL??

BUT, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED...
BAKA-ROOOM!
THE VERY EARTH TRIES TO SWALLOW US FOR OUR TRESPASS!
WHAT WONDER IS THIS?? THE MOUNTAIN IS SPLITTING ASUNDER?!


HOW COULD ANY MERE MORTAL SURMISE THE TRUTH?? WHO COULD IMAGINE THAT THE THOUGHT-IMAGE OF LOKI HAS BREATHED ONE SILENT COMMAND TO HIM WHO LIES BENEATH THE RUINS ---
...AND, AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT, A CURRENT OF UNIMAGINABLE FORCE GUSHES UPWARDS FROM THE RUBBLE BELOW---HURLING GIANT BOULDERS INTO THE AIR WITH THE FURY OF AN EXPLODING NOVA...!


---UNTIL, ONE FEARSOME FIGURE STANDS FORTH FROM THE RUBBLE---THE FIGURE OF--THE DESTROYER!!
FOR LONG, BREATHLESS SECONDS HE STANDS MOTIONLESS--- SILENT-- UNTIL, AT LAST---

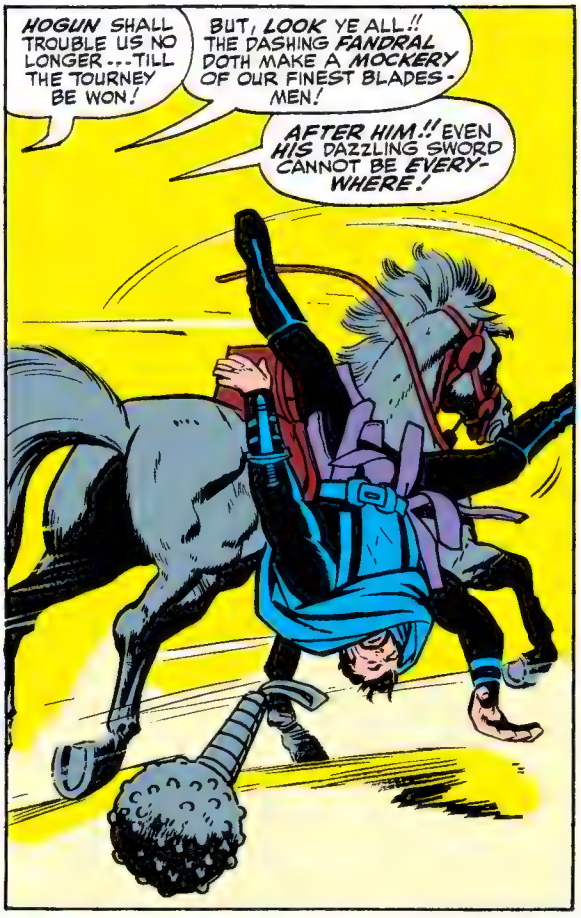

---THE VOICE OF THE DESTROYER THUNDERS FORTH--- AS THE VERY MOUNTAINS TREMBLE---
I LIVE AGAIN!!
HEAR ME, ODIN!! THE STAKES OF THY TOURNAMENT HAVE BEEN RAISED!
NOW IT IS THINE OWN LIFE ITSELF WHICH IS THE PRIZE!
AND, AS THE INDESTRUCTIBLE DESTROYER GLANCES HEAVENWARD, THE VERY ATMOSPHERE AROUND HIM BEGINS TO CRACKLE WITH SHIMMERING BOLTS OF LETHAL, UNCONTROLLABLE ENERGY---ENOUGH RAW, LIVING POWER TO SHATTER A PLANET!!


WHILE, A UNIVERSE AWAY, THE SOARING FLIGHT OF EAGLES AND GOLDEN FALCONS HERALDS THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS ... A TOURNEY SUCH AS MORTAL MAN HAS NEVER WITNESSED ... SUCH AS MORTAL MIND CAN SCARCELY CONCEIVE ...!
THE TIME IS COME FOR THE WARRIORS' CHARGE... THE MOST AWESOME DISPLAY OF FIGHTING POWER EVER WITNESSED IN ONE ARENA!
THE COMBATANTS ASSEMBLE IN TWO GROUPS, EACH POSSESSING A SYMBOLIC PENNANT! THE FIRST PENNANT TO FALL SIGNIFIES THAT GROUP'S DEFEAT!
THOUGH THIS DAY HATH BEEN PROCLAIMED A TIME OF GLORY, THERE IS A COLD CHILL O'ER YON PROCEEDINGS...
I SENSE IT, TOO! LIKE SOME DARK, DREAD OMEN OF IMPENDING EVIL ... SOON TO BE UNLEASHED UPON US ALL!
LET THY LIPS BE SILENT! IMPERIAL ODIN HATH NODDED HIS HEAD!
HO! LET THE CHAMPIONS OF EACH CONTENDING GROUP NOW APPROACH THE PRESENCE!

WARRIORS ALL! THE BLESSING OF THY LIEGE UPON THEE!
TO THE BRAVEST SHALL GO THE PRIZE!
AND NOW, FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE ETERNAL REALM... LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!
I HAVE SPOKEN!
SO BE IT!
ONWARD!! TO VICTORY!!
THROOM!
AND SO, WITH A ROAR THAT RESOUNDS THROUGH THE COSMOS--THE POWER OF THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST WARRIORS IS THUNDEROUSLY UNLEASHED...
KLANGG!
15.

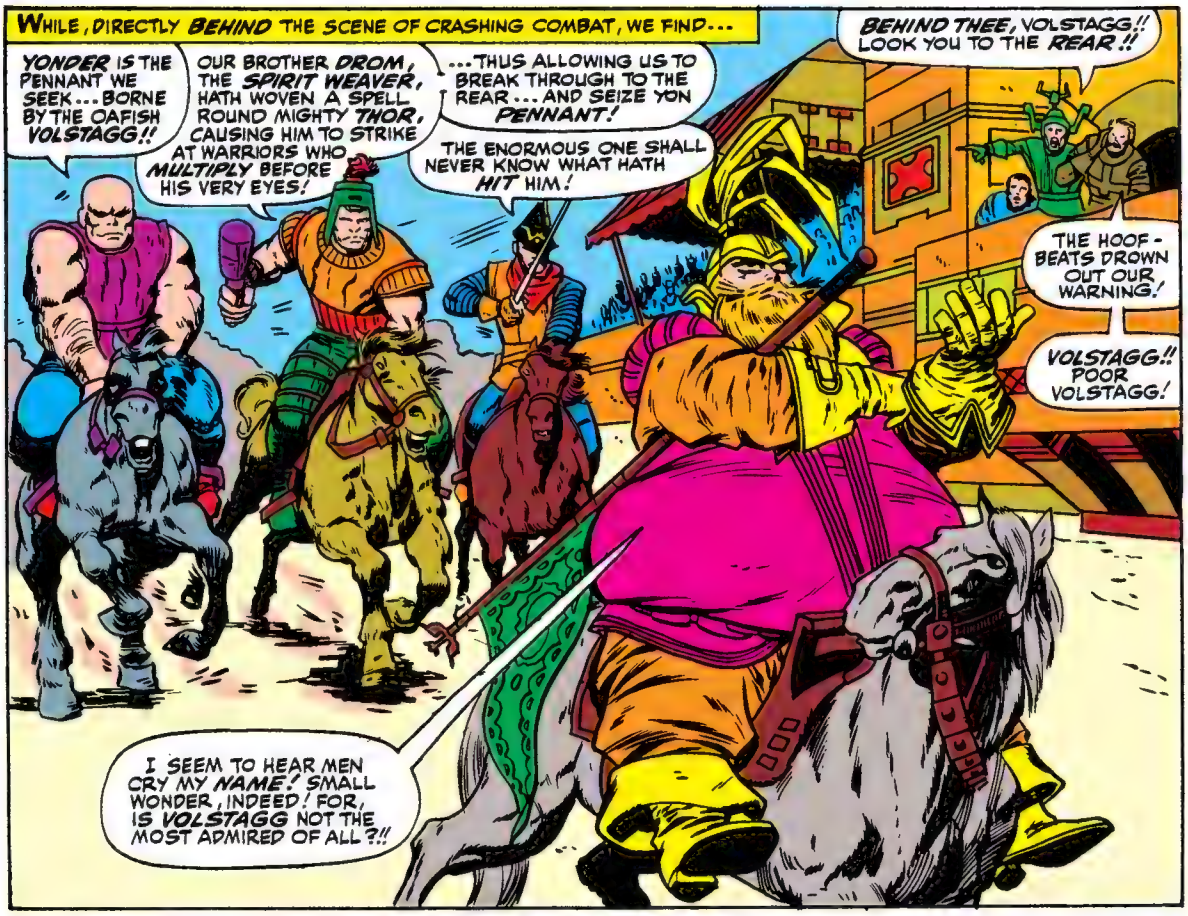
BUT THEN, AS THE BATTLE RAGES, A STARTLING HAPPENSTANCE BEFALLS---
FOR EACH FOE I UNHORSE, TWO OTHERS APPEAR--- SEEMINGLY FROM THE AIR ITSELF---TO TAKE HIS PLACE!
HATH SOME ENCHANTMENT BEEN PLACED UPON YON FIELD OF BATTLE? OR, IS A NEW, SINISTER FORCE HERE AT WORK?
WOK!
KRAK!
YET, WHILE THE THUNDER GOD STRIKES OUT AGAINST EVER-INCREASING ODDS, HIS BROTHERS-IN-BATTLE CHARGE HEADLONG INTO THE FRAY---
'TIS HOGUN THE GRIM--- ALONE BEFORE US!
NOT SO, VARLETS! HOGUN IS NEVER ALONE---
WHILST HE POSSESSES--- HIS MACE!!
THROKK!
16.

HORSEMAN AFTER HORSEMAN DOES THE GRIM-VISAGED IMMORTAL BATTER INTO HELPLESSNESS, UNTIL AT LAST... THE IRON-NERVED HOGUN IS BESET FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE ---
BY THE THREE-HEADED SERPENT OF THRACE!! A LUCKY BLOW HATH TORN MY SADDLE FROM BENEATH ME--!!
FT OK!!


HOGUN SHALL TROUBLE US NO LONGER---TILL THE TOURNEY BE WON!
BUT, LOOK YE ALL!! THE DASHING FANDRAL DOTH MAKE A MOCKERY OF OUR FINEST BLADES-MEN!
AFTER HIM!! EVEN HIS DAZZLING SWORD CANNOT BE EVERY-WHERE!

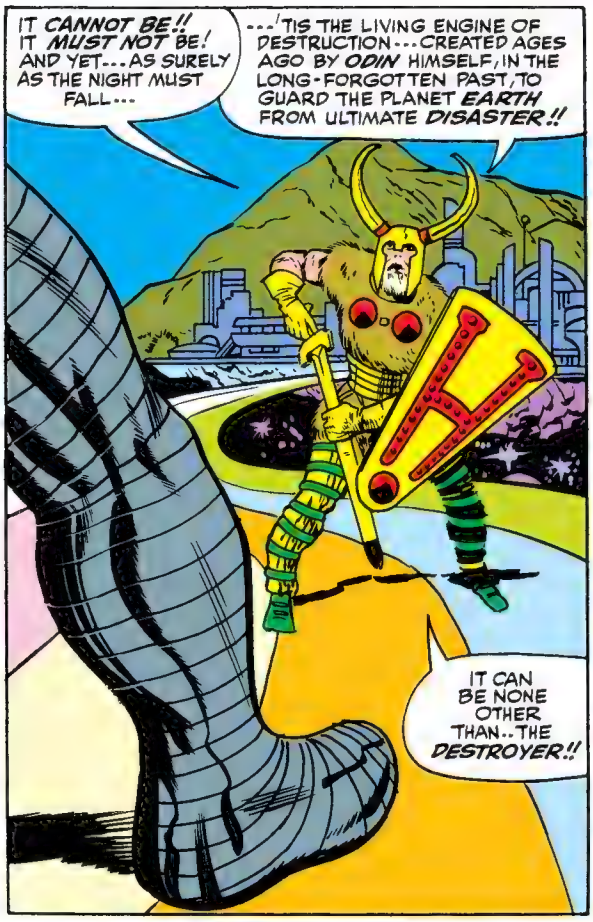
SPANG!
HAVE AT THEE, CRAVEN CHURLS!! TO LIVE IS TO FIGHT---AND FANDRAL YIELDS TO NONE!

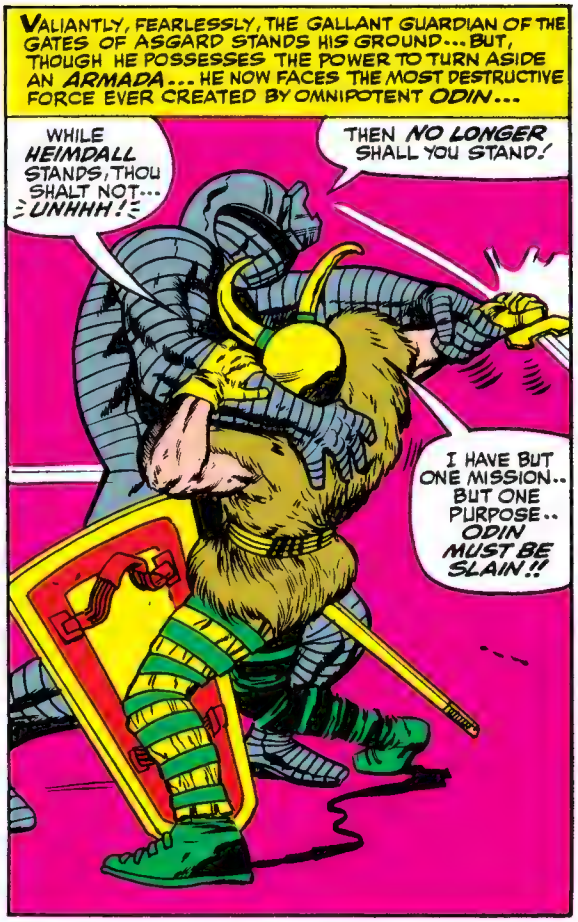
HAH! NOT EVEN THE PRINCE OF DUELISTS CAN POSSESS VISION IN BACK OF HIS HEAD!
THY SWORD SHALL NOW BE STILLED, TILL THE BATTLE DOTH END!
CHOK!


WHILE, DIRECTLY BEHIND THE SCENE OF CRASHING COMBAT, WE FIND---
YONDER IS THE PENNANT WE SEEK--- BORNE BY THE OAFISH VOLSTAGG!!
OUR BROTHER DROM, THE SPIRIT WEAVER, HATH WOVEN A SPELL ROUND MIGHTY THOR, CAUSING HIM TO STRIKE AT WARRIORS WHO MULTIPLY BEFORE HIS VERY EYES!
---THUS ALLOWING US TO BREAK THROUGH TO THE REAR--- AND SEIZE YON PENNANT!
THE ENORMOUS ONE SHALL NEVER KNOW WHAT HATH HIT HIM!
BEHIND THEE, VOLSTAGG!! LOOK YOU TO THE REAR!!
THE HOOF-BEATS DROWN OUT OUR WARNING!
VOLSTAGG!! POOR VOLSTAGG!
I SEEM TO HEAR MEN CRY MY NAME! SMALL WONDER, INDEED! FOR, IS VOLSTAGG NOT THE MOST ADMIRED OF ALL?!!

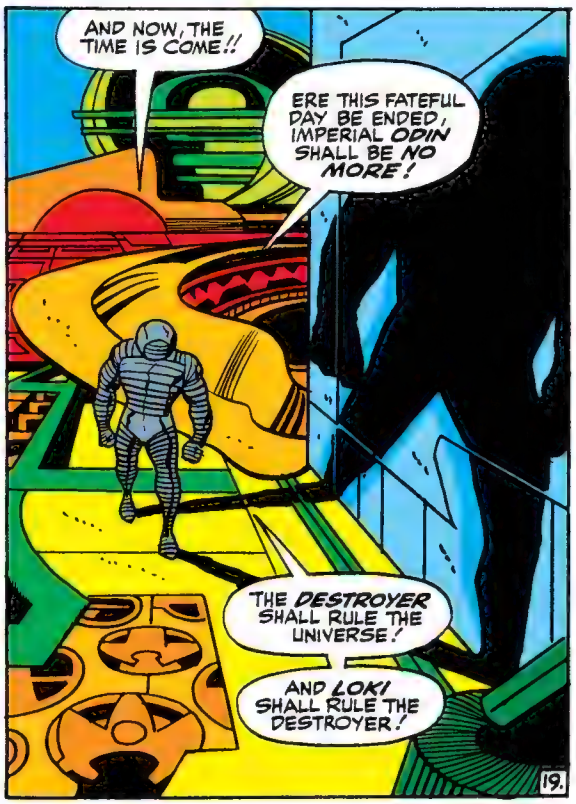
THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO VOLSTAGG'S SILENT QUERY---
SPLOK!
ALAS, POOR VOLSTAGG! WE KNEW HIM ---WELL?

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ON THE GLEAMING RAINBOW BRIDGE WHICH SPANS THE CHASM FROM THE YAWNING COSMOS TO THE GOLDEN REALM, FAITHFUL HEIMDALL SPINS ABOUT---
THAT SUDDEN DEAFENING ROAR FROM THE GREAT ARENA---
..IT SIGNIFIES THE CAPTURE OF A PENNANT TROPHY!
ALAS, THAT I MAY NOT LEAVE MY POST, TO WITNESS SUCH STAGGERING SPECTACLE!
BUT...WAIT!! WHAT MANNER OF BEING IS THIS WHO DOTH APPROACH..?!

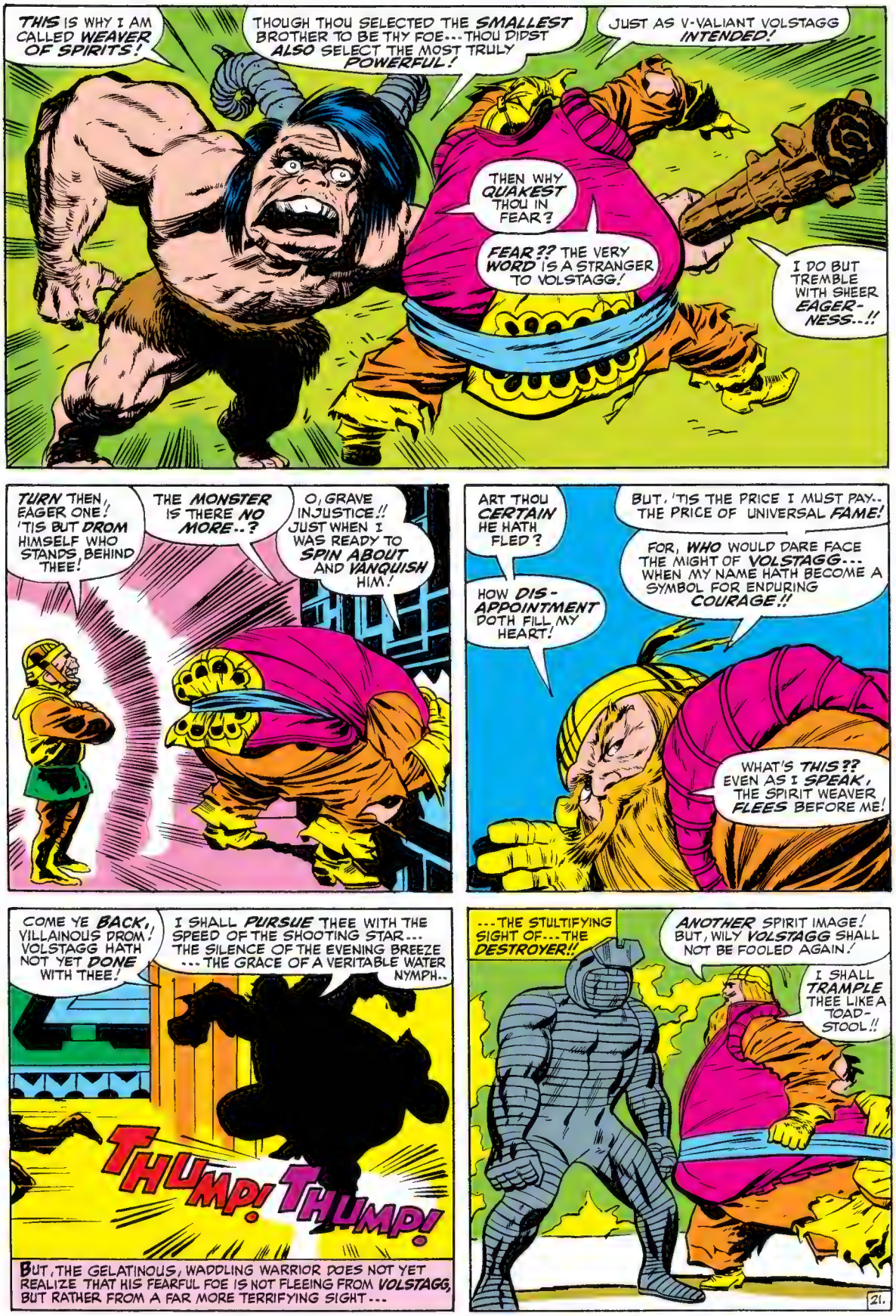

IT CANNOT BE!! IT MUST NOT BE! AND YET... AS SURELY AS THE NIGHT MUST FALL...
...'TIS THE LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION... CREATED AGES AGO BY ODIN HIMSELF, IN THE LONG-FORGOTTEN PAST, TO GUARD THE PLANET EARTH FROM ULTIMATE DISASTER!!
IT CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN.. THE DESTROYER!!

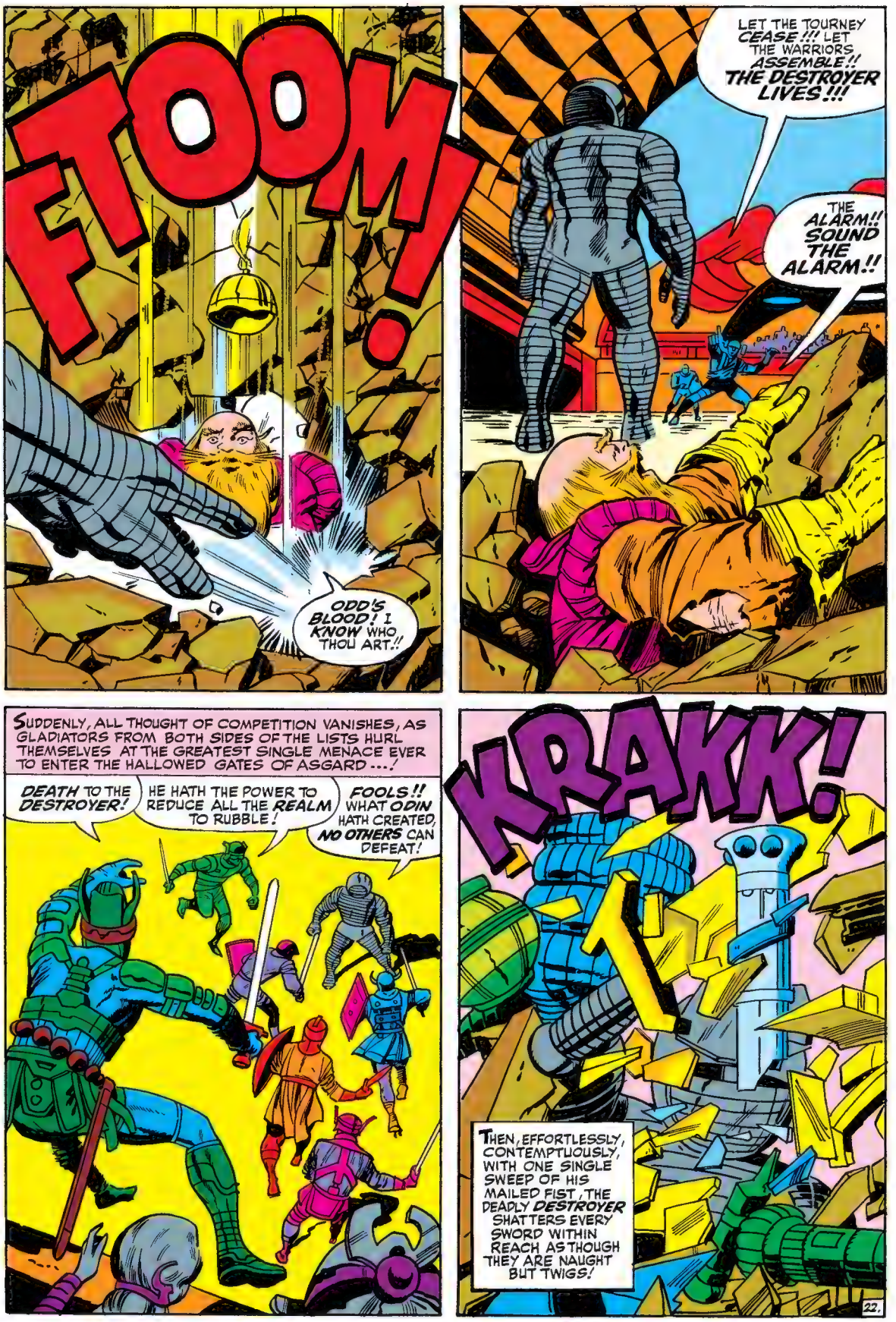

VALIANTLY, FEARLESSLY, THE GALLANT GUARDIAN OF THE GATES OF ASGARD STANDS HIS GROUND... BUT, THOUGH HE POSSESSES THE POWER TO TURN ASIDE AN ARMADA... HE NOW FACES THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE EVER CREATED BY OMNIPOTENT ODIN...
WHILE HEIMDALL STANDS, THOU SHALT NOT... UNHHH!
THEN NO LONGER SHALL YOU STAND!
I HAVE BUT ONE MISSION.. BUT ONE PURPOSE.. ODIN MUST BE SLAIN!!

THUS, FALL THEE, HEIMDALL!!
FOR NONE CAN WITHSTAND A SOLID BOLT OF ELEMENTAL FORCE... WHICH ONLY THE DESTROYER POSSESSES!


AND NOW, THE TIME IS COME!!
ERE THIS FATEFUL DAY BE ENDED, IMPERIAL ODIN SHALL BE NO MORE!
THE DESTROYER SHALL RULE THE UNIVERSE!
AND LOKI SHALL RULE THE DESTROYER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE ARENA, MIGHTY THOR REJOINS HIS FALLEN LIEUTENANTS...
AY, FANDRAL! OUR FOES HAVE EMPLOYED THE USE OF SPELLS TO CONFUSE US... ALTHOUGH THEY BE FORBIDDEN BY THE RULES!
A FAR GREATER WRONG THAN THAT WAS HERE COMMITTED..!
O BASEST OF INFAMY! TO THINK THAT EVER-ALERT VOLSTAGG COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE!
BUT DEARLY SHALL THEY PAY FOR SUCH DECEPTION!
HOLD, VILLAINS! THE BATTLE IS NOT YET ENDED!
CHALLENGE AWAY THEN, THUNDER GOD! SURELY THOU ART DOOMED TO DEFEAT!
SINGLY, EACH OF US IS THE SUPERIOR OF OUR ASGARDIAN COUNTERPART!
WE STILL MAY REGAIN YON PENNANT BY RIGHT OF PERSONAL CHALLENGE!!
THE CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MET!
HA!! LET THE COMBAT BEGIN!
DIDST THOU THINK THY SIZE ALONE COULD TRIUMPH OVER THOR?
WHAT? A SINGLE BLADE AGAINST THE WIZARDRY OF FANDRAL? SURELY THOU DOST JEST!
THOU HAST MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT SUCH MATTERS, YE WHO CALL THYSELF THE CRUSHER!
BOM!
NOW, GALP, THERE ARE NONE TO SAVE THEE!
DROM! GET THEE TO MY SIDE!
BUT, DROM, THE SPIRIT WEAVER, NEEDS HIS ENCHANTMENT FOR HIMSELF... AS THE MOUNTAINOUS VOLSTAGG LUMBERS TOWARDS HIM WITH THE GRACE AND AGILITY OF AN EARTHQUAKE...
IN ALL THE UNIVERSE, ONLY ONE THING EXCEEDS THE FABLED STRENGTH OF VOLSTAGG... AND THAT IS THE FURY OF MY FEARSOME ANGER!
THOU ART BRAVE AS THE LION AGAINST ONE SINGLE TROLL...
BUT, LET US TEST THY COURAGE AGAINST THE IMAGERY I SHALL WEAVE FROM THE MOLECULES OF INFINITY..!
20.


THIS IS WHY I AM CALLED WEAVER OF SPIRITS!
THOUGH THOU SELECTED THE SMALLEST BROTHER TO BE THY FOE---THOU DIDST ALSO SELECT THE MOST TRULY POWERFUL!
JUST AS V-VALIANT VOLSTAGG INTENDED!
THEN WHY QUAKEST THOU IN FEAR?
FEAR?? THE VERY WORD IS A STRANGER TO VOLSTAGG!
I DO BUT TREMBLE WITH SHEER EAGER-NESS..!!
TURN THEN, EAGER ONE! 'TIS BUT DROM HIMSELF WHO STANDS BEHIND THEE!
THE MONSTER IS THERE NO MORE..?
O, GRAVE INJUSTICE!! JUST WHEN I WAS READY TO SPIN ABOUT AND VANQUISH HIM!
ART THOU CERTAIN HE HATH FLED?
HOW DIS-APPOINTMENT DOTH FILL MY HEART!
BUT, 'TIS THE PRICE I MUST PAY.. THE PRICE OF UNIVERSAL FAME!
FOR, WHO WOULD DARE FACE THE MIGHT OF VOLSTAGG--- WHEN MY NAME HATH BECOME A SYMBOL FOR ENDURING COURAGE!!
WHAT'S THIS?? EVEN AS I SPEAK, THE SPIRIT WEAVER FLEES BEFORE ME!
COME YE BACK, VILLAINOUS DROM! VOLSTAGG HATH NOT YET DONE WITH THEE!
I SHALL PURSUE THEE WITH THE SPEED OF THE SHOOTING STAR--- THE SILENCE OF THE EVENING BREEZE --- THE GRACE OF A VERITABLE WATER NYMPH..
THUMP! THUMP!
BUT, THE GELATINOUS, WADDLING WARRIOR DOES NOT YET REALIZE THAT HIS FEARFUL FOE IS NOT FLEEING FROM VOLSTAGG, BUT RATHER FROM A FAR MORE TERRIFYING SIGHT ---
---THE STULTIFYING SIGHT OF---THE DESTROYER!!
ANOTHER SPIRIT IMAGE! BUT, WILY VOLSTAGG SHALL NOT BE FOOLED AGAIN!
I SHALL TRAMPLE THEE LIKE A TOAD-STOOL!!
21.


TOOM!
ODD'S BLOOD! I KNOW WHO THOU ART!!
LET THE TOURNEY CEASE!!! LET THE WARRIORS ASSEMBLE!! THE DESTROYER LIVES!!!
THE ALARM!! SOUND THE ALARM!!
SUDDENLY, ALL THOUGHT OF COMPETITION VANISHES, AS GLADIATORS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE LISTS HURL THEMSELVES AT THE GREATEST SINGLE MENACE EVER TO ENTER THE HALLOWED GATES OF ASGARD ...!
DEATH TO THE DESTROYER!
HE HATH THE POWER TO REDUCE ALL THE REALM TO RUBBLE!
FOOLS!! WHAT ODIN HATH CREATED, NO OTHERS CAN DEFEAT!
KRAKK!
THEN, EFFORTLESSLY, CONTEMPTUOUSLY, WITH ONE SINGLE SWEEP OF HIS MAILED FIST, THE DEADLY DESTROYER SHATTERS EVERY SWORD WITHIN REACH AS THOUGH THEY ARE NAUGHT BUT TWIGS!
22.

HE DOTH MOVE DIRECTLY TOWARDS LORD ODIN!! AND ALL OUR MIGHT IS POWERLESS TO STOP HIM!
WE ARE LIKE UNTO HELPLESS GNATS... BUZZING ABOUT A BEHEMOTH!
YET... STOP HIM WE MUST!
'TIS FUTILE FOLLY! ASGARD IS DOOMED!

THE DESTROYER'S BODY GLOWS... VERITABLE SHOCK WAVES POUR FORTH...WHICH NO LIVING BEING CAN ENDURE!
BEGONE, HELPLESS ONES! SUCH AS THEE ARE BENEATH MY NOTICE!
'TIS ODIN ALONE I MUST DESTROY!

MOST NOBLE LORD! HOW CAN ONE WHOM THOU THYSELF CREATED HAVE THE POWER TO VANQUISH THEE?
HE WAS DESIGNED TO SERVE ASGARD ...TO BE THE WEAPON SUPREME AN HOUR OF NEED!
HENCE, IT DID PLEASE ME TO MAKE HIM INDESTRUCTIBLE!

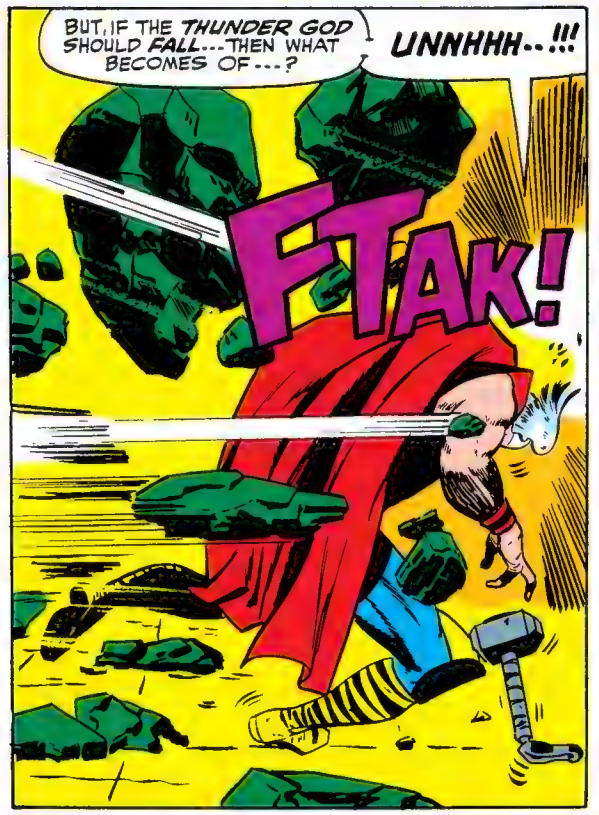
BUT HE DOTH POSSESS NO WILL OF HIS OWN! ONLY ANOTHER CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LIFE FORCE TO GUIDE MY CREATION!
AND HIM WHO GUIDES THE DESTROYER NOW MUST SURELY BE AN IMMORTAL.. FOR WHO ELSE COULD FIND AND CROSS THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE?
AND, OF ALL THE IMMORTALS OF THE REALM, ONLY LOKI WOULD DARE SUCH A DEADLY CHALLENGE TO MY POWER... TO MY VERY LIFE!

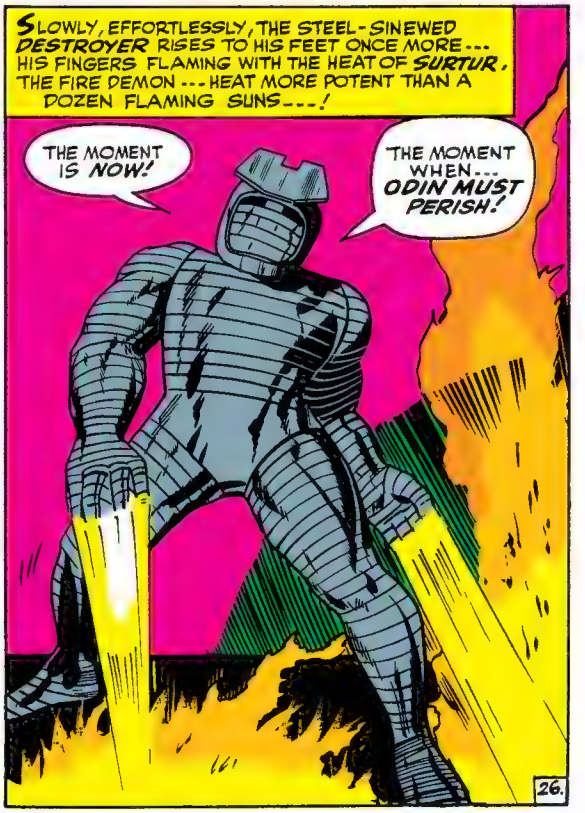
MEANWHILE, EVEN AS A SORELY TROUBLED ODIN SPEAKS...
THE DESTROYER!
NOW MUST WE CEASE THIS PETTY AMUSEMENT THAT WE MAY DEFEND OUR LIEGE!
SHOULD THE DESTROYER PREVAIL, THEN ASGARD MUST SURELY FALL!
ASGARD FALL?? NEVER... WHILST ONE OF US LIVES! ALL TOGETHER THEN...
BUT, HOLD! ONE FACE HAVE I SOUGHT IN VAIN! THE VISAGE OF BALDER!
I, TOO, HAVE PONDERED YON MYSTERY!
IN OUR HOUR OF TRIAL, WHAT OF HIM WHO HATH BEEN MORE THAN BROTHER TO US ALL??
WHAT OF BALDER?
BUT, AT THE SIGHT OF THE DESTROYER, MIGHTY THOR CAN THINK OF NOTHING SAVE THE DANGER THAT CONFRONTS HIS REGAL FATHER...
FOR ODIN!
FOR ASGARD!
THE THUNDER GOD STRIKES!
DEATH TO HIM WHO THREATENS THE PRESENCE ROYAL!
WHOOOOM
BACK, THOU BESTIAL, BLOODLESS THING OF EVIL! BACK, BEFORE THE POWER OF THOR!
24

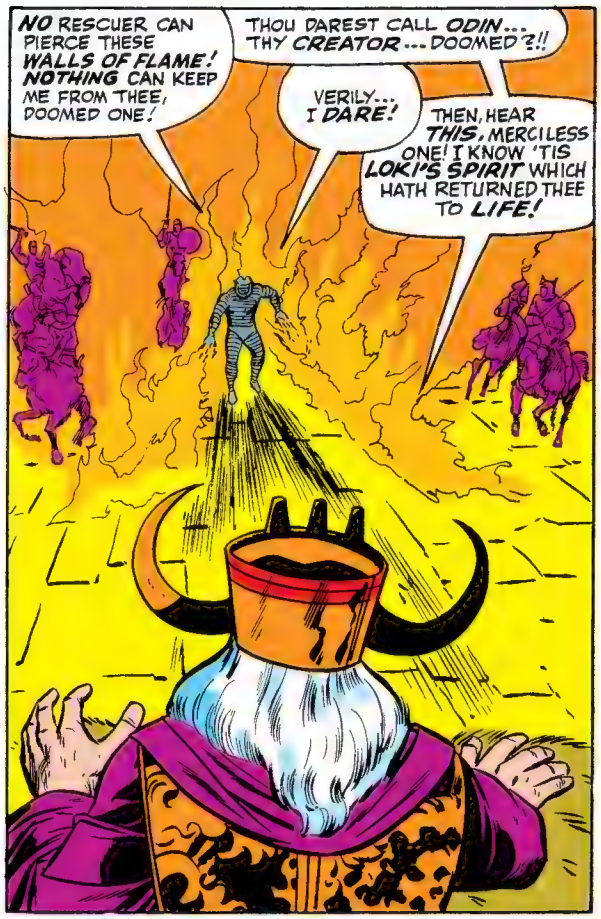
HE TOTTERS! HE REELS BACK!
THE ADVANTAGE MUST BE PRESSED, ERE HE DOTH RECOVER!
THOU SHALT NEVER REACH ODIN WHILST THE GOD OF THUNDER ENDURES!
BLANG!
AGAIN... AND AGAIN.. AND AGAIN.. MUST I STRIKE..!
FTOK!
...UNTIL MY LORD ODIN HATH FOUND A MEANS TO VANQUISH THIS MOST MONSTROUS MENACE OF ALL!
WROK
THEN, WITH ONE INDESCRIBABLE BLOW, THE MIGHTY THOR DOES WHAT NONE HAVE EVER DONE BEFORE--HE DOWNS THE DREAD DESTROYER--!
ASGARD BE PRAISED! I HAVE ACHIEVED THE IM-POSSIBLE!
SKRAK!
THUD!
25.

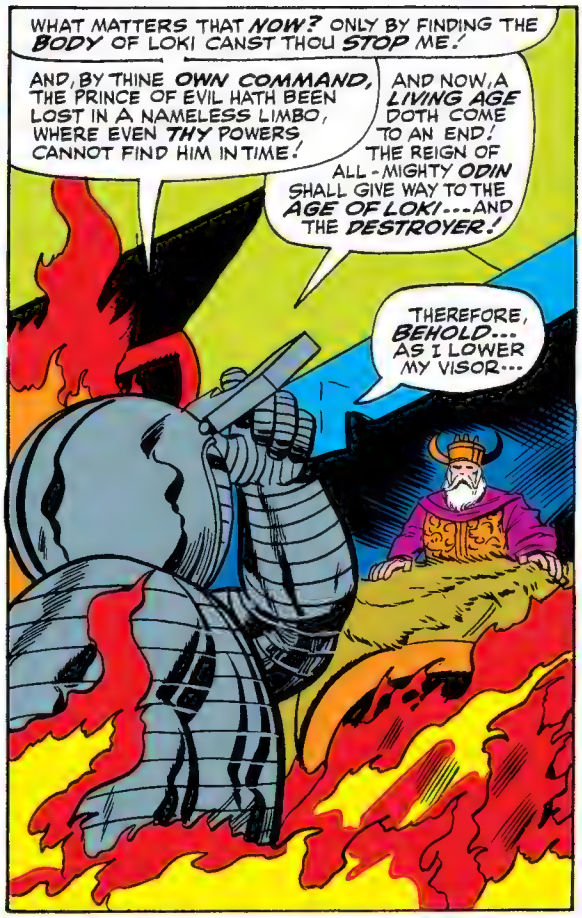
BUT, THOUGH MOMENTARILY HURLED OFF-BALANCE, THE DEADLY DESTROYER... CREATED BY OMNIPOTENT ODIN HIMSELF---HAS BEEN CREATED TOO WELL---
NO HAMMERING ATTACK---NO HUMILIATING FALL.. CAN EVER LESSEN THE DEVASTATING LETHAL POWER OF THE DESTROYER!
VERILY HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH!
ZAK!

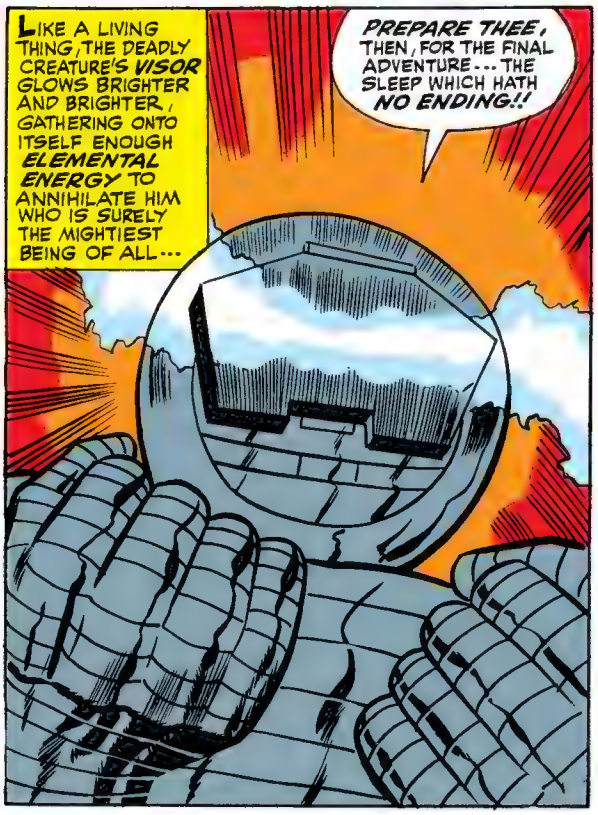
STIZZZK!
HE WHOM ALL-WISE ODIN HATH CREATED.. NO OTHER FORCE CAN REND ASUNDER!


BUT, IF THE THUNDER GOD SHOULD FALL---THEN WHAT BECOMES OF---?
UNNHHH..!!!
FTAK!

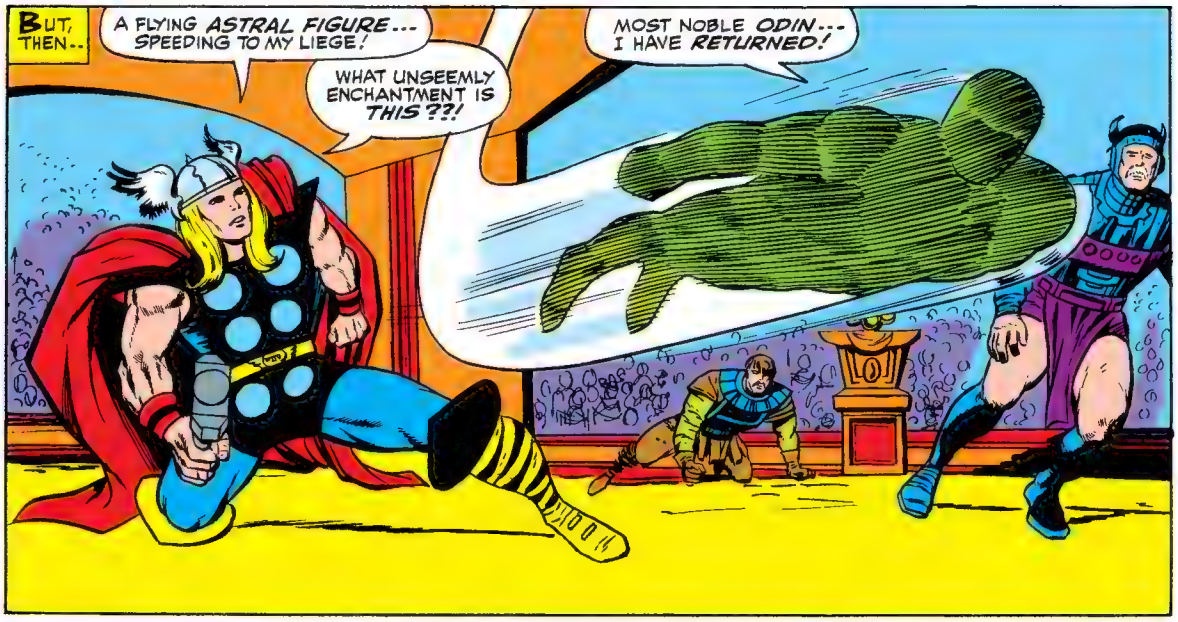

SLOWLY, EFFORTLESSLY, THE STEEL-SINEWED DESTROYER RISES TO HIS FEET ONCE MORE--- HIS FINGERS FLAMING WITH THE HEAT OF SURTUR, THE FIRE DEMON---HEAT MORE POTENT THAN A DOZEN FLAMING SUNS---!
THE MOMENT IS NOW!
THE MOMENT WHEN--- ODIN MUST PERISH!

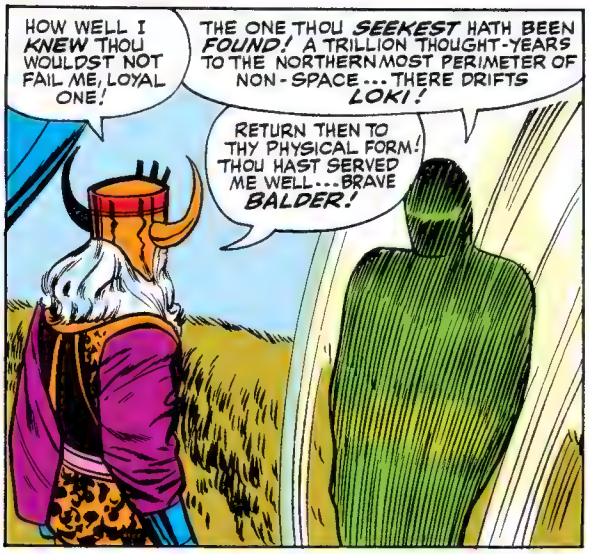

NO RESCUER CAN PIERCE THESE WALLS OF FLAME! NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM THEE, DOOMED ONE!
THOU DAREST CALL ODIN... THY CREATOR... DOOMED?!!
VERILY... I DARE!
THEN, HEAR THIS, MERCILESS ONE! I KNOW 'TIS LOKI'S SPIRIT WHICH HATH RETURNED THEE TO LIFE!


WHAT MATTERS THAT NOW? ONLY BY FINDING THE BODY OF LOKI CANST THOU STOP ME!
AND, BY THINE OWN COMMAND, THE PRINCE OF EVIL HATH BEEN LOST IN A NAMELESS LIMBO, WHERE EVEN THY POWERS CANNOT FIND HIM IN TIME!
AND NOW, A LIVING AGE DOTH COME TO AN END! THE REIGN OF ALL-MIGHTY ODIN SHALL GIVE WAY TO THE AGE OF LOKI---AND THE DESTROYER!
THEREFORE, BEHOLD... AS I LOWER MY VISOR...

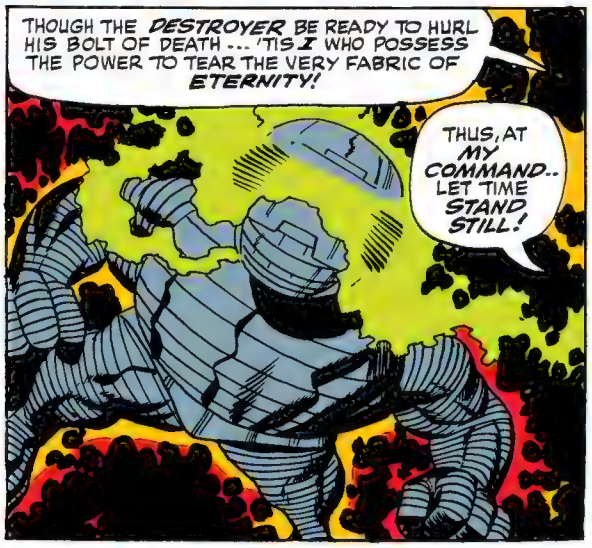

LIKE A LIVING THING, THE DEADLY CREATURE'S VISOR GLOWS BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, GATHERING ONTO ITSELF ENOUGH ELEMENTAL ENERGY TO ANNIHILATE HIM WHO IS SURELY THE MIGHTIEST BEING OF ALL...
PREPARE THEE, THEN, FOR THE FINAL ADVENTURE... THE SLEEP WHICH HATH NO ENDING!!

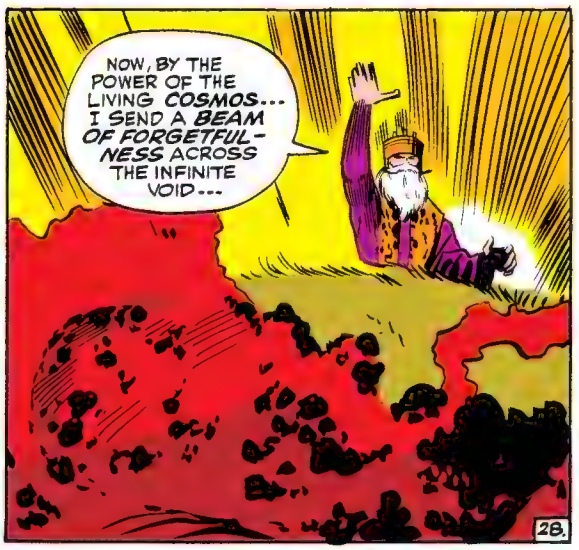
EVIL ONE, HEAR ME! THOU CANST NOT! THOU MUST NOT!
SUCH MONUMENTAL INFAMY WILL MAKE THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES CRUMBLE AND TURN ASHEN IN AN AGONY OF SHAME!
TAKE THOU THE LIFE OF A THUNDER GOD...
...BUT SPARE HIM WHO IS SOVEREIGN OF US ALL!


BUT, THEN..
A FLYING ASTRAL FIGURE... SPEEDING TO MY LIEGE!
WHAT UNSEEMLY ENCHANTMENT IS THIS??!
MOST NOBLE ODIN... I HAVE RETURNED!


HOW WELL I KNEW THOU WOULDST NOT FAIL ME, LOYAL ONE!
THE ONE THOU SEEKEST HATH BEEN FOUND! A TRILLION THOUGHT-YEARS TO THE NORTHERNMOST PERIMETER OF NON-SPACE... THERE DRIFTS LOKI!
RETURN THEN TO THY PHYSICAL FORM! THOU HAST SERVED ME WELL... BRAVE BALDER!

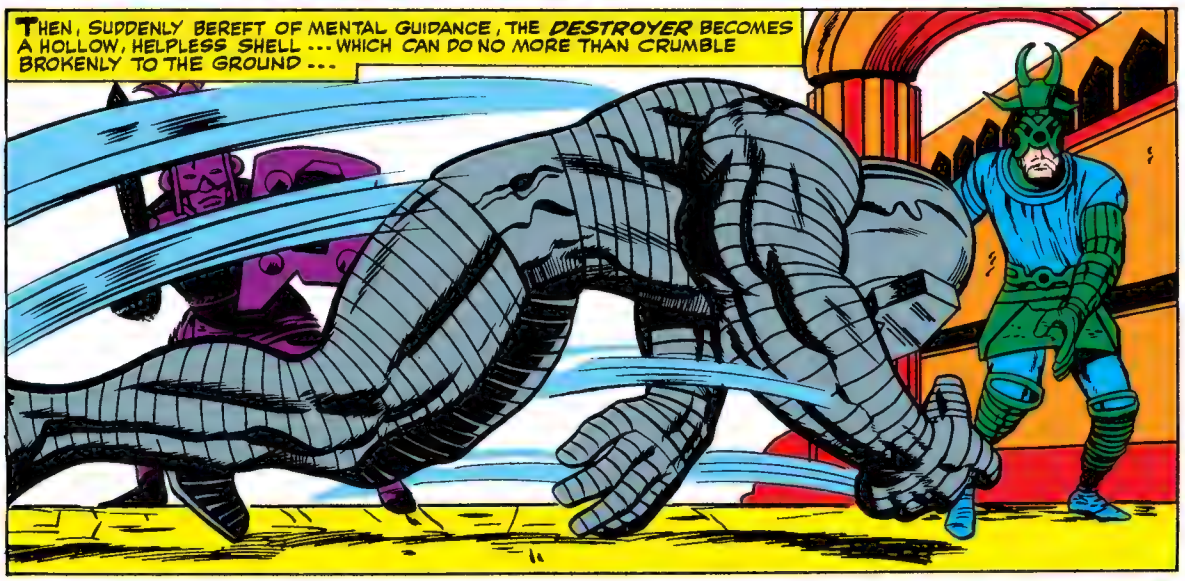
BUT, SIRE... WHAT IF THE DESTROYER STRIKES ERE THOU CANST FELL THE INFAMOUS LOKI FROM SUCH AN UNTHINKABLE DISTANCE?!!
BANISH THY FEARS! AM I NOT ETERNAL ODIN?!!

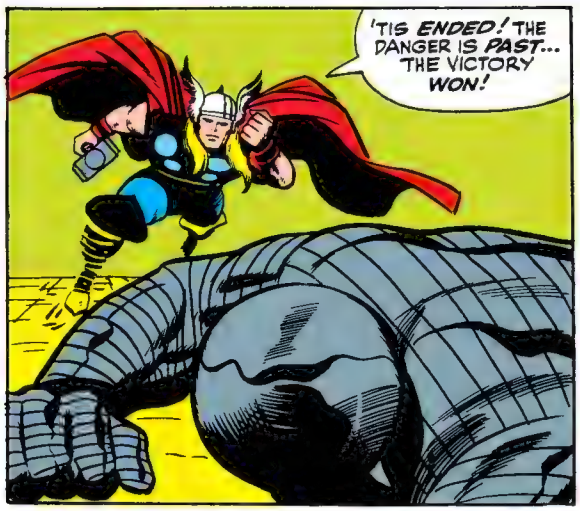

THOUGH THE DESTROYER BE READY TO HURL HIS BOLT OF DEATH... 'TIS I WHO POSSESS THE POWER TO TEAR THE VERY FABRIC OF ETERNITY!
THUS, AT MY COMMAND.. LET TIME STAND STILL!

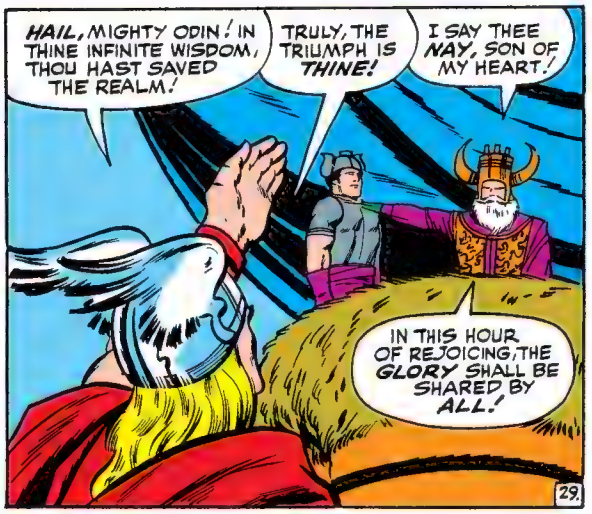

NOW, BY THE POWER OF THE LIVING COSMOS... I SEND A BEAM OF FORGETFULNESS ACROSS THE INFINITE VOID...

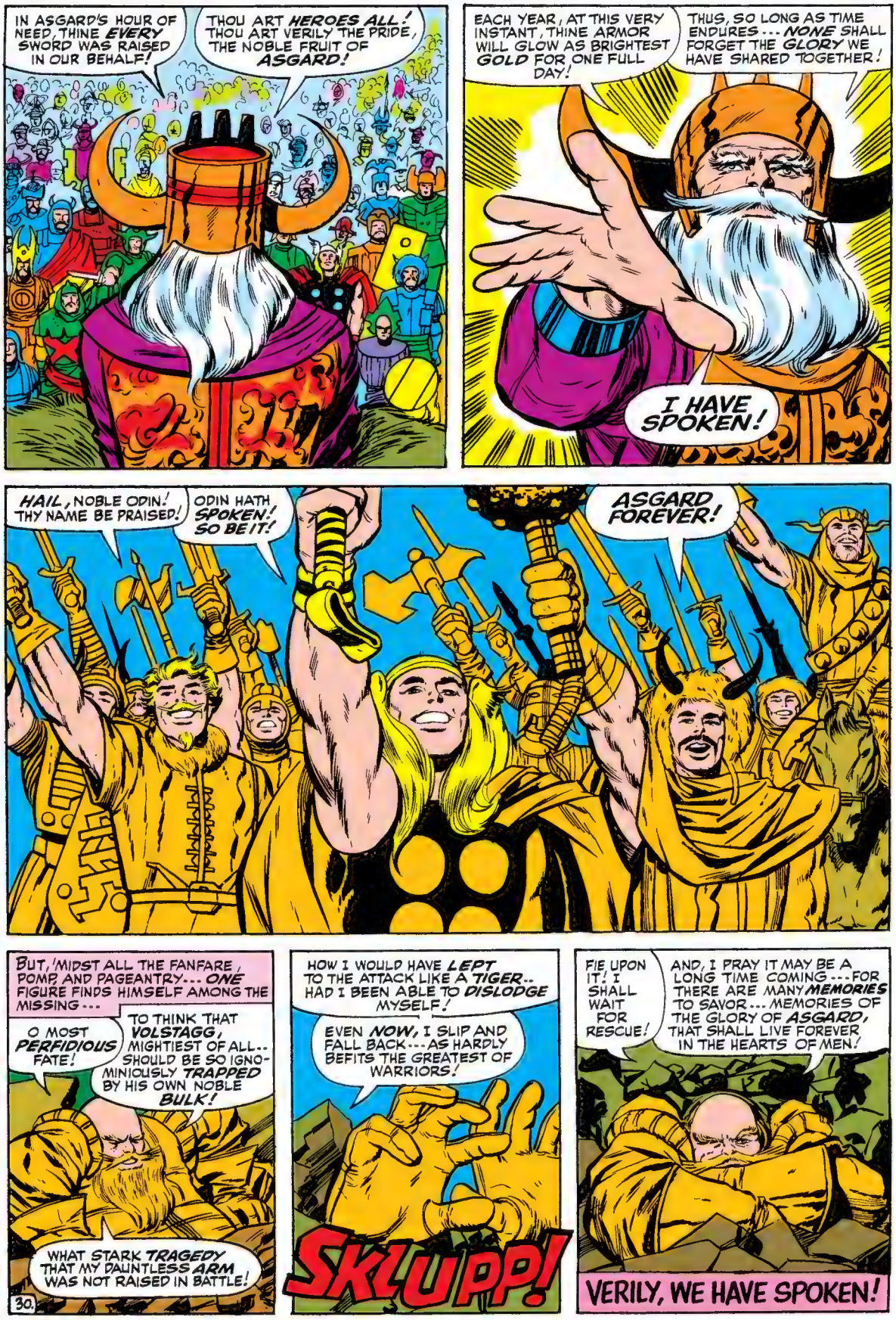
AND, AT THE FURTHEST REACH OF THE LIMITLESS UNIVERSE, THE PRINCE OF EVIL IS DEFEATED ONCE MORE ...

...AS THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING BEAM CLOSES LOKI'S MIND TO ALL THOUGHT ... TO ALL MEMORY ...!


THEN, SUDDENLY BEREFT OF MENTAL GUIDANCE, THE DESTROYER BECOMES A HOLLOW, HELPLESS SHELL ... WHICH CAN DO NO MORE THAN CRUMBLE BROKENLY TO THE GROUND ...


'TIS ENDED! THE DANGER IS PAST... THE VICTORY WON!

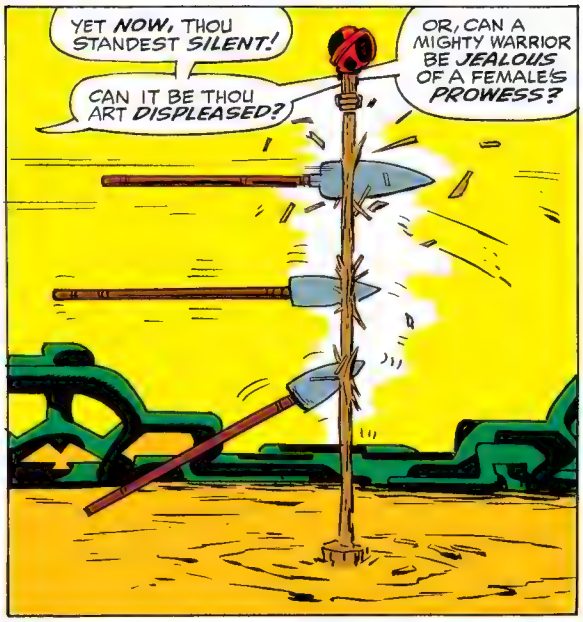

HAIL, MIGHTY ODIN! IN THINE INFINITE WISDOM, THOU HAST SAVED THE REALM!
TRULY, THE TRIUMPH IS THINE!
I SAY THEE NAY, SON OF MY HEART!
IN THIS HOUR OF REJOICING, THE GLORY SHALL BE SHARED BY ALL!

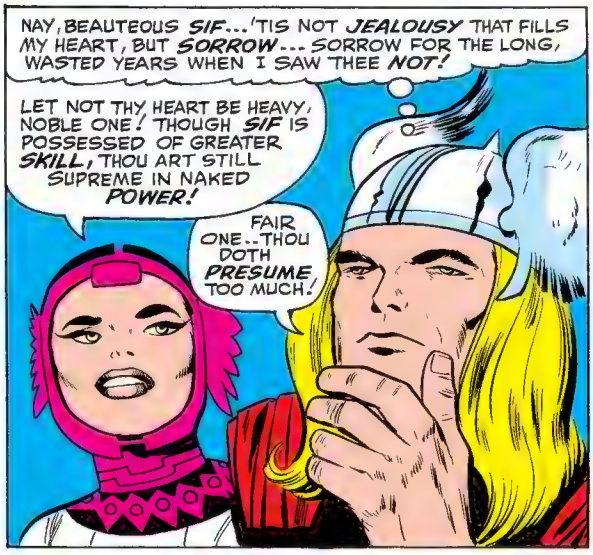

IN ASGARD'S HOUR OF NEED, THINE EVERY SWORD WAS RAISED IN OUR BEHALF!
THOU ART HEROES ALL! THOU ART VERILY THE PRIDE, THE NOBLE FRUIT OF ASGARD!
EACH YEAR, AT THIS VERY INSTANT, THINE ARMOR WILL GLOW AS BRIGHTEST GOLD FOR ONE FULL DAY!
THUS, SO LONG AS TIME ENDURES... NONE SHALL FORGET THE GLORY WE HAVE SHARED TOGETHER!
I HAVE SPOKEN!
HAIL, NOBLE ODIN! THY NAME BE PRAISED!
ODIN HATH SPOKEN! SO BE IT!
ASGARD FOREVER!
BUT, 'MIDST ALL THE FANFARE, POMP AND PAGEANTRY... ONE FIGURE FINDS HIMSELF AMONG THE MISSING...
O MOST PERFIDIOUS FATE!
TO THINK THAT VOLSTAGG, MIGHTIEST OF ALL.. SHOULD BE SO IGNOMINIOUSLY TRAPPED BY HIS OWN NOBLE BULK!
WHAT STARK TRAGEDY THAT MY DAUNTLESS ARM WAS NOT RAISED IN BATTLE!
HOW I WOULD HAVE LEPT TO THE ATTACK LIKE A TIGER.. HAD I BEEN ABLE TO DISLODGE MYSELF!
EVEN NOW, I SLIP AND FALL BACK... AS HARDLY BEFITS THE GREATEST OF WARRIORS!
SKLUPP!
FIE UPON IT! I SHALL WAIT FOR RESCUE!
AND, I PRAY IT MAY BE A LONG TIME COMING... FOR THERE ARE MANY MEMORIES TO SAVOR... MEMORIES OF THE GLORY OF ASGARD, THAT SHALL LIVE FOREVER IN THE HEARTS OF MEN!
VERILY, WE HAVE SPOKEN!

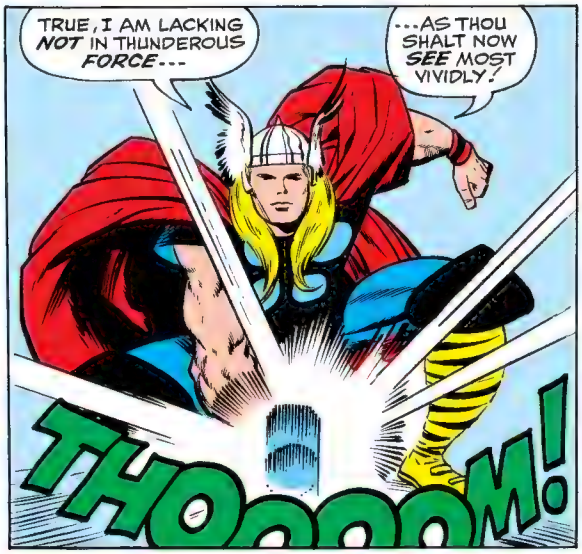
THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
137 FEB
"THE THUNDER GOD AND THE TROLL!"
AT LAST! THE IMMORTAL AVENGER BATTLES A FOE AS POWERFUL AS THOR HIMSELF! INTRODUCING:
ULIK!

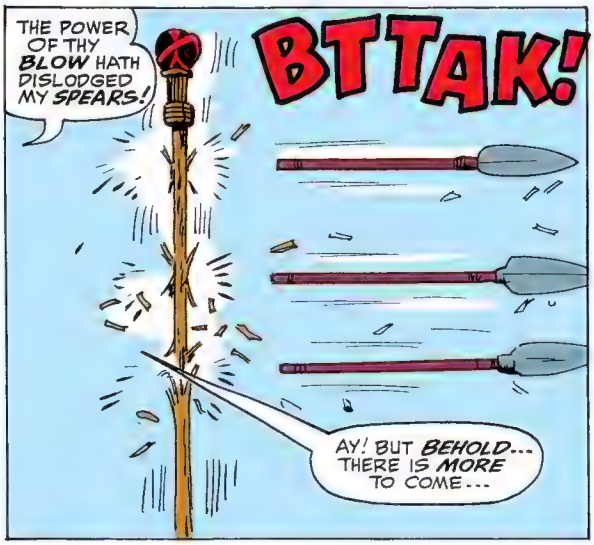
THE MIGHTY THOR!
"The THUNDER GOD And The TROLL!"
CAN YON VISION OF LOVELINESS TRULY BE SIF--- THE SAME RAVEN-HAIRED SISTER OF HEIMDALL WHOM I ONCE DID BOUNCE UPON MY KNEE WHEN SHE WAS BUT A CHILD?
FOR NOW, AFTER LO, THOSE MANY LONG-FORGOTTEN YEARS, SHE IS VERILY FAIREST OF ALL!
IN ALL THE UNMEASURABLE UNIVERSE, SURELY THERE BE NONE, SAVE
Stan LEE and Jack KIRBY
WHO COULDST CREATE SUCH WONDERMENT!
AND, NE'ER AGAIN SHALL WE SEE THE LIKE OF
VINCE COLLETTA INKER AND SAM ROSEN LETTERER
BRACE THYSELF, MORTAL, FOR THE UNENDING MIRACLES THINE EYES SHALT SOON BEHOLD---

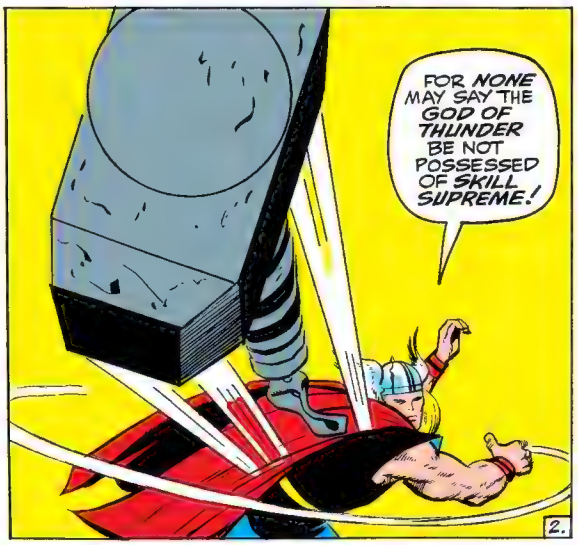
BEHOLD, GOD OF THUNDER, HOW SKILLED THE ONCE-TIMID SIF HATH BECOME IN THE WAYS OF WEAPONRY!
LONG HAVE I PRACTICED, HOPING TO WIN THE APPROVAL OF THE SON OF ODIN!

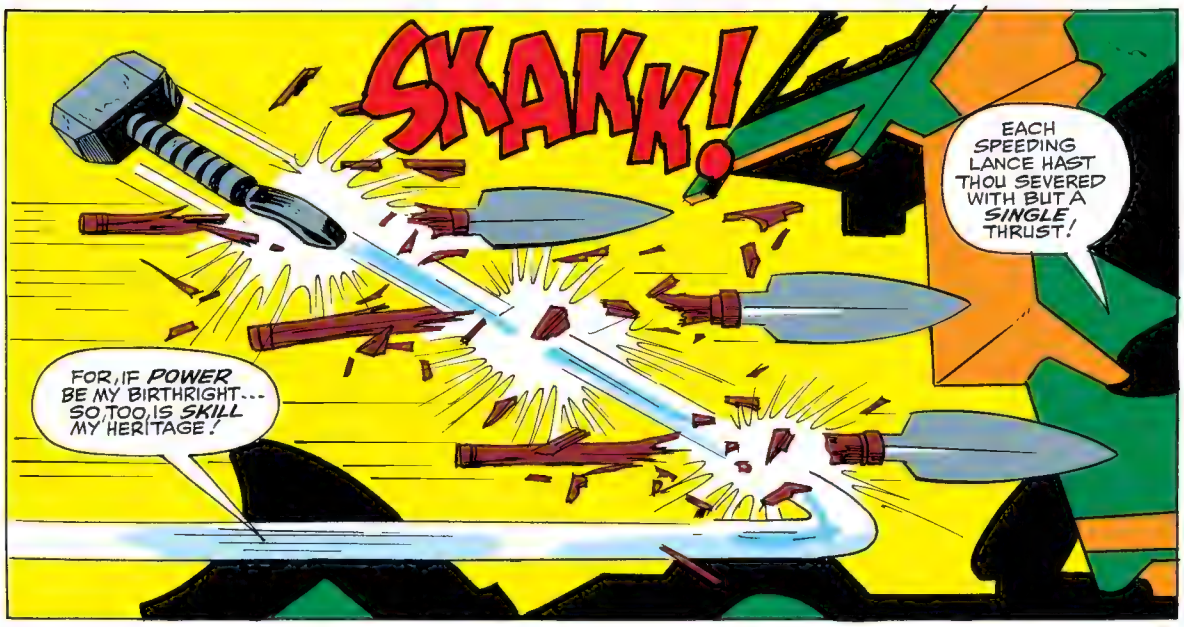

YET NOW, THOU STANDEST SILENT!
CAN IT BE THOU ART DISPLEASED?
OR, CAN A MIGHTY WARRIOR BE JEALOUS OF A FEMALE'S PROWESS?

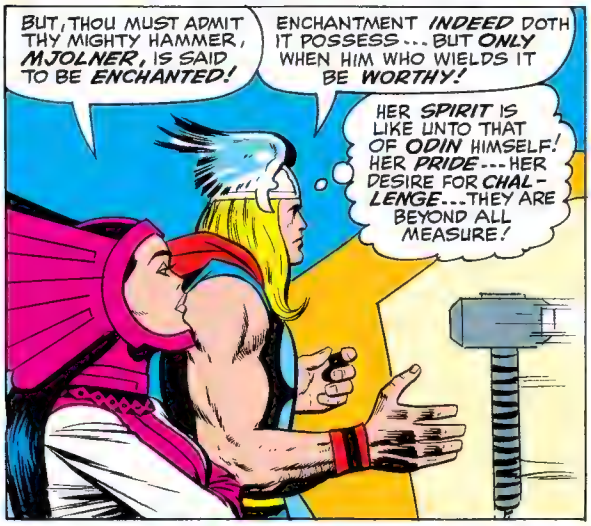

NAY, BEAUTEOUS SIF... 'TIS NOT JEALOUSY THAT FILLS MY HEART, BUT SORROW... SORROW FOR THE LONG, WASTED YEARS WHEN I SAW THEE NOT!
LET NOT THY HEART BE HEAVY, NOBLE ONE! THOUGH SIF IS POSSESSED OF GREATER SKILL, THOU ART STILL SUPREME IN NAKED POWER!
FAIR ONE--THOU DOTH PRESUME TOO MUCH!


TRUE, I AM LACKING NOT IN THUNDEROUS FORCE...
...AS THOU SHALT NOW SEE MOST VIVIDLY!
THOOOOM!


THE POWER OF THY BLOW HATH DISLODGED MY SPEARS!
BTTAK!
AY! BUT BEHOLD... THERE IS MORE TO COME...


FOR NONE MAY SAY THE GOD OF THUNDER BE NOT POSSESSED OF SKILL SUPREME!
2.


SKAKK!
FOR, IF POWER BE MY BIRTHRIGHT--- SO TOO, IS SKILL MY HERITAGE!
EACH SPEEDING LANCE HAST THOU SEVERED WITH BUT A SINGLE THRUST!


BUT, THOU MUST ADMIT THY MIGHTY HAMMER, MJOLNER, IS SAID TO BE ENCHANTED!
ENCHANTMENT INDEED DOTH IT POSSESS--- BUT ONLY WHEN HIM WHO WIELDS IT BE WORTHY!
HER SPIRIT IS LIKE UNTO THAT OF ODIN HIMSELF! HER PRIDE--- HER DESIRE FOR CHALLENGE---THEY ARE BEYOND ALL MEASURE!

THOUGH THOU HAST NO EQUAL WITH HAMMER IN HAND, SIF WOULDST FAIN TEST THY PROWESS WITH WARRIOR'S SWORD!
THERE SHALL BE TIME ENOW FOR SUCH SPORT IN DAYS TO COME!
FIRST, THOR WOULDST SPEAK WITH THEE OF GENTLER MATTERS..!

BUT, EVEN AS THE TWO LIGHT-HEARTED IMMORTALS SLOWLY TURN TO EACH OTHER--- EVIL, HATE-FILLED EYES OBSERVE THEIR EVERY MOVE--!
THE FOOLS! HAVE THEY SO SOON FORGOTTEN THAT ASGARD IS AT WAR WITH THE NATION OF THE TROLLS?
NEVER BEFORE HAS SUCH A PRIZE BEEN SO NEAR AT HAND! A PRIZE THAT MUST BE OURS!

DISPERSE!! SURROUND THE TWO ASGARDIANS! WE MUST CAPTURE THE ALL-POWERFUL HAMMER OF THOR!
THEY HEAR US! HE TURNS--- THEY PREPARE FOR OUR ATTACK!
NO MATTER! THEY ARE TOO LATE! WE CANNOT BE STOPPED NOW!
REMEMBER THE HAMMER! ONCE IT IS OURS, ASGARD WILL FALL! THE ROCK TROLLS WILL BE MASTERS OF THE COSMOS!

HIS ARM! HOLD HIS ARM SO HE CANNOT USE HIS HAMMER!
DEATH TO THE THUNDER GOD---IN THE NAME OF THE UNBEATABLE TROLLS!
NAY, MIGHTY THOR! AN IMMORTAL DOES NOT FLEE!
WHILST THE BATTLE DOTH RAGE, THE BLADE OF SIF SHALL STRIKE... SO LONG AS LIFE ENDURES!
RUN, SIF... SAVE THYSELF! THOR SHALL KEEP THEM FROM THEE!
HIS HAMMER! SEIZE YE HIS HAMMER!

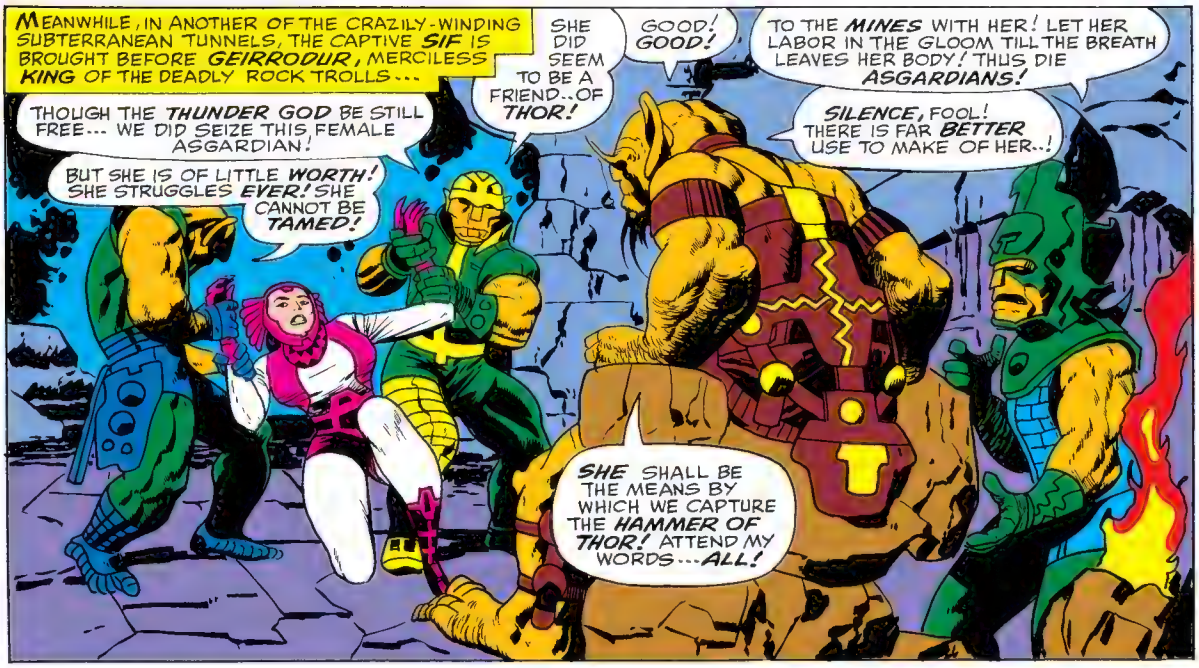
BUT THEN, BRACING HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES AGAINST THE TITANIC POWER OF THE TROLLS, THE THUNDER GOD HURLS THEM FROM HIM IN A PAROXYSM OF SURGING RAGE...!
BEGONE, YE CREATURES OF EVIL!

COURAGE, FAIR SIF! TO THY SIDE RACES THOR!
FOR ASGARD... AND JUSTICE!

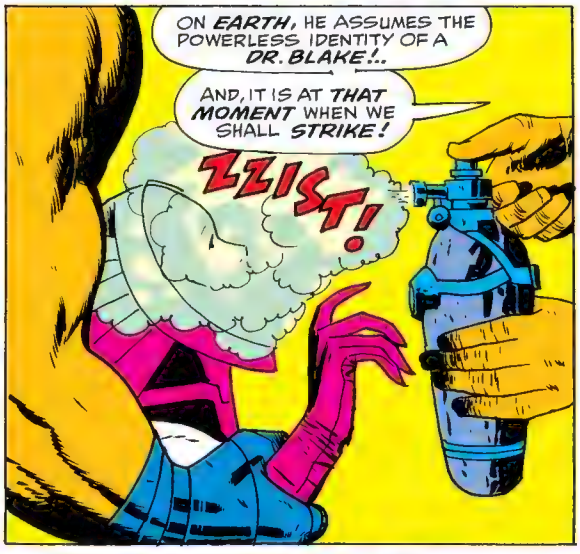
THOUGH THY WEAPONS BE FASHIONED IN THE GREATEST FORGES OF ALL---
NONE MAY STAND AGAINST THE MAJESTIC MALLET OF THOR!
BRRAK!
HE SHATTERS OUR MACES AS THOUGH THEY BE TINDER!
BUT OUR SUPREME WEAPON SHALL PROVE HIS UNDOING!
QUICK! WHILE HE IS IN POSITION-- RELEASE THE GIANT BLUDGEON-BOW!
ALL STAND CLEAR! THE COMMAND IS --- FIRE!
THUS DIES THE GOD OF THUNDER!
NAY! NOT WHILST SIF BE STILL IN JEOPARDY!
BY THE GLITTER OF THE GOLDEN SPIRES--- SO STRIKES THOR!
THB
OOM
5.

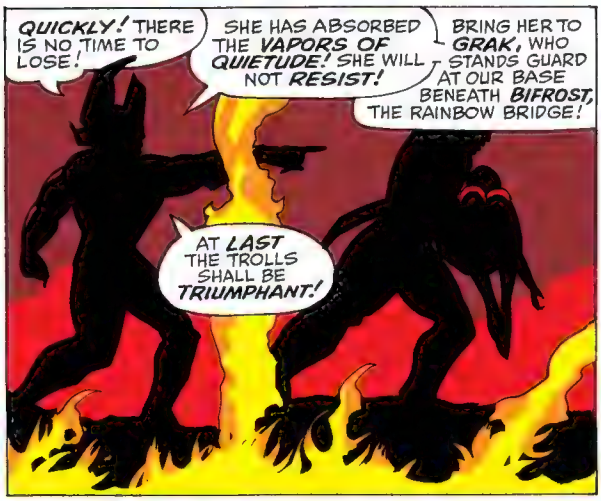
WE HAVE FAILED! NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THE ACCURSED URU HAMMER!
BUT, ALL IS NOT YET LOST! THE FEMALE NOW IS OURS!
INTO THE TUNNELS... QUICK! WE MUST LEAVE HIM TO... ULIK!
ONLY THE DREADED ULIK HAS THE POWER TO CRUSH THE THUNDER GOD!
ULIK! MIGHTY ULIK! HE IS OUR ONLY HOPE! NOTHING CAN STAND AGAINST THE MIGHT OF ULIK!
FASTER! WE MUST LEAD THE SON OF ODIN DEEP INTO THE CAVES... FROM WHICH THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE!
FOR ULIK WILL BE WAITING!
AND, EVEN AS THE RETREATING TROLLS LAY THEIR FURTIVE PLANS, THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL HURTLES AFTER THEM...
SIF!! BY ASGARD... THEY HAVE TAKEN SIF!
FLEE WHERE THOU MAY, CRAVEN CREATURES OF THE DARKEST DEPTHS... THOU CANST NOT ESCAPE THE VENGEANCE OF THOR!
MOMENTS LATER, FAR BELOW THE SUNLIT SURFACE, THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE ARE STILLED... AS A SILENCE, DEEPER THAN DEATH, SEEMS TO SHROUD THE STYGIAN GLOOM...
I STAND WHERE NO ASGARDIAN HAS EVER STOOD...
...AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE FORBIDDEN UNDERKINGDOM OF THE TROLLS!
'TIS A STRANGE, FOREBODING WORLD... WITH MORE WINDING TUNNELS THAN MAN CAN COUNT!
BUT, THROUGH ONE SUCH TUNNEL WAS TAKEN THE LOVELY SIF...
AND, FIND IT I SHALL... NO MATTER... WAIT!!
WHAT UNFLINCHING APPARITION APPEARS BEFORE ME?
6.

I AM CALLED... ULIK! I AM MIGHTIEST OF ALL ROCK TROLLS! I AM MIGHTIEST OF ALL WHO LIVE! I AM ULIK!
LONG HAVE I WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT...FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THOR... WHO IS DESTINED TO BE MY NEXT...MY NEWEST VICTIM!
ULIK! FOR A LIFETIME HAVE I HEARD THY NAME SPOKEN IN HUSHED, FEARFUL WHISPERS! BUT, EVER THOUGHT I 'TWAS MERELY LEGEND... TO FRIGHTEN YOUNG ASGARDIANS INTO SLUMBER!
NO MERE LEGEND AM I! BUT KNOW YOU, THUNDER GOD... TO STAND BEFORE ME IS TO DIE!
SO SAYING, THE DEADLY ULIK LUMBERS FORTH... CLOSER, EVER CLOSER TO THE STARTLED IMMORTAL--HIS BESTIAL HANDS GRIPPING TWO METAL POUNDERS WITH WHICH HE CAN SHATTER A MOUNTAIN AT WILL...


MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER OF THE CRAZILY-WINDING SUBTERRANEAN TUNNELS, THE CAPTIVE SIF IS BROUGHT BEFORE GEIRRODUR, MERCILESS KING OF THE DEADLY ROCK TROLLS...
THOUGH THE THUNDER GOD BE STILL FREE... WE DID SEIZE THIS FEMALE ASGARDIAN!
BUT SHE IS OF LITTLE WORTH! SHE STRUGGLES EVER! SHE CANNOT BE TAMED!
SHE DID SEEM TO BE A FRIEND..OF THOR!
GOOD! GOOD!
TO THE MINES WITH HER! LET HER LABOR IN THE GLOOM TILL THE BREATH LEAVES HER BODY! THUS DIE ASGARDIANS!
SILENCE, FOOL! THERE IS FAR BETTER USE TO MAKE OF HER..!
SHE SHALL BE THE MEANS BY WHICH WE CAPTURE THE HAMMER OF THOR! ATTEND MY WORDS...ALL!

HERE, IN THE LAND WHERE IMMORTALS DWELL, THE POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD IS TOO GREAT! SO, WE SHALL USE THE FEMALE TO LURE HIM TO EARTH..!
BUT, EVEN ON THE PLANET OF MORTALS, HIS THUNDEROUS POWER... HIS ENCHANTED MALLET STILL REMAIN!
AY... BUT I KNOW SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING KNOWN TO NO OTHER TROLL...


ON EARTH, HE ASSUMES THE POWERLESS IDENTITY OF A DR. BLAKE!..
AND, IT IS AT THAT MOMENT WHEN WE SHALL STRIKE!
IZIST!


QUICKLY! THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE!
SHE HAS ABSORBED THE VAPORS OF QUIETUDE! SHE WILL NOT RESIST!
BRING HER TO GRAK, WHO STANDS GUARD AT OUR BASE BENEATH BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE!
AT LAST THE TROLLS SHALL BE TRIUMPHANT!

INTO THE TUNNEL OF WIND CURRENTS WITH HER!
THERE! IT IS DONE!
SHE WILL REACH THE WAITING GRAK WITHIN MERE MINUTES!

MEANWHILE, THE MOST POWERFUL TROLL OF ALL ATTACKS THE STARTLED THUNDER GOD WITH A BLINDING SPEED WHICH BELIES HIS MASSIVE SIZE---
ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, ULIK WILL BE ACCLAIMED MIGHTIEST OF ALL!
NEVER WILT THOU KNOW SUCH A MOMENT!
THOK!
HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN? A BLOW FROM ULIK'S METAL POUNDERS CAN CRUSH ANY WHO LIVE!
BUT A GOD OF THUNDER STANDS NOT IDLY BY TO RECEIVE SUCH BLOWS!
INSTEAD, HE DOTH DART AND WEAVE!
---UNTIL HE SNARES HIS FOE IN HIS OWN STEEL-SINEWED HAND!
AND THEN---HE SHOWS WHAT IT DOTH MEAN TO CHALLENGE THE SON OF ODIN!
THUM!
ARRGGHHH! ASGARDIANS DO NAUGHT BUT TALK! NONE MAY VANQUISH A TROLL---WE BATTLE ON UNTIL THE DEATH!!
AND ULIK IS THE MIGHTIEST TROLL OF ALL!
TO THE DEATH THEN LET IT BE!
THOUGH THY STRENGTH BE THAT OF A THOUSAND... STILL ART THOU MERELY TROLL-- WHILE, STILL IS THOR... GOD OF THUNDER!
9.

GRROWWWRRR!
--THE MADDER A TROLL BECOMES... THE MORE POWERFUL GROW HIS LIMBS!
IN MY BURNING RAGE, THE METAL POUNDERS OF ULIK WILL GRIND YOU TO NOTHINGNESS!

KNOW YOU THIS...THOUGH THY RAGE MAY SHAKE THE VERY STARS--
--THE ANGER OF THOR SURPASSETH ALL DESCRIPTION!
SPRAK!

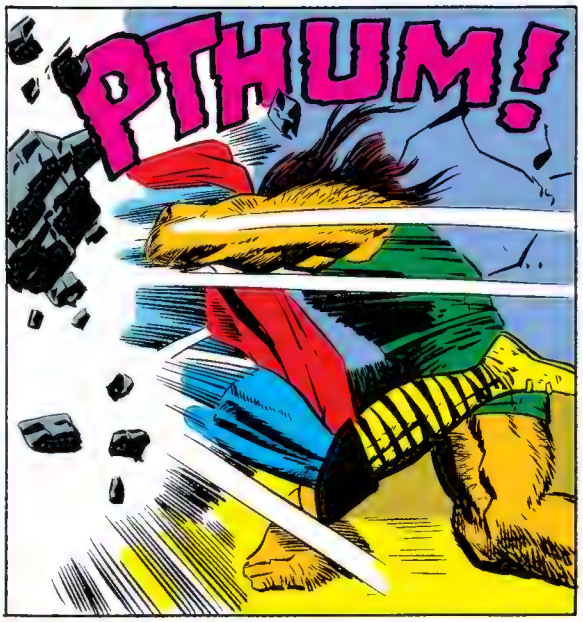
HE HATH STUMBLED!
YET, MY STRONGEST BLOW DID INJURE HIM NOT!
NOW DO I PERCEIVE WHY WARRIORS SHUDDER AT HIS VERY NAME!
FOR THAT, YOU DIE A THOUSANDFOLD!

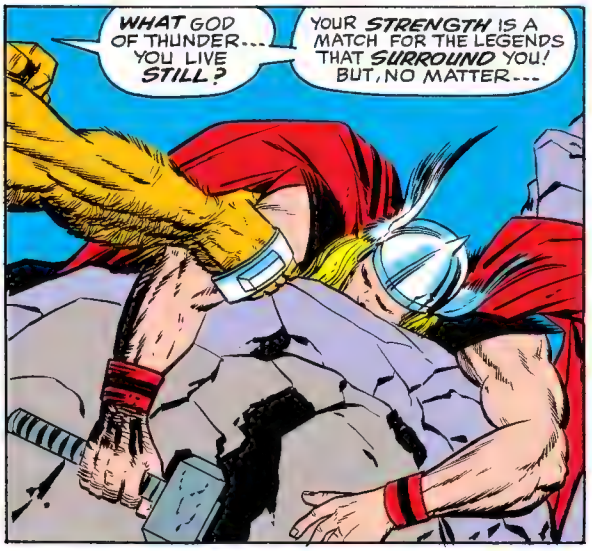
NEVER HAVE I BEHELD SUCH NAKED FURY WITHIN A LIVING BEING!
THE MORE HE BE BATTERED, THE MORE DEADLY HE BECOMES!
HE IS IMPERVIOUS TO PAIN..A STRANGER TO REASON OR MERCY---
HOW THEN CAN ONE SUCH AS HE BE VANQUISHED... EVEN BY THE SON OF ODIN?

HE DOTH SWING WIDE HIS ARM--- PREPARING TO STRIKE A LETHAL BLOW!
EVEN WITHOUT HIS METAL POUNDER, HIS STRENGTH SEEMS VIRTUALLY THE EQUAL OF MINE OWN!-!
BUT, WITH POUNDER IN HAND, HE DOTH POSSESS POWER ENOW TO LEVEL A PLANET!
KHBROOOM!
NOT ALL THE POWER OF THOR COULD STOP HIM IN TIME!
HE HATH RENT ASUNDER THE VERY WALL OF YON CAVERN---
A LETHAL SHOCK WAVE HATH HE CREATED--- AS THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN QUAKES AND CRUMBLES!
PROOOMMM
A GIANT STALACTITE--- PLUMMETING LIKE A COMET--- DISLODGED BY THE CHURNING BOULDERS!
'TIS CERTAIN AT LAST--- THE MONSTROUS STRENGTH OF ULIK--- IF IT BE NOT CHECKED.. MAY SHATTER A WORLD, IF HE SO CHOOSE!
ZZZZZZZZZZ
SPKLAKK!
BUT, CHECKED IT SHALL BE--- WHILST THOR DOTH LIVE!
11.

NOW... ONE CRUSHING BLOW WITH MY METAL POUNDER... AND THE MIGHTY THOR WILL NEVER RISE AGAIN!
I DID NOT DREAM HE WAS SO NEAR! HE DOTH PREPARE TO STRIKE!
MOVING WITH THE SMOOTH, FLAWLESS SPEED WHICH ONLY A THUNDER GOD CAN ATTAIN, THE IMMORTAL AVENGER ROLLS OUT OF HARM'S AWAY IN TIME TO DODGE A BLOW THAT NO LIMB OF FLESH AND BLOOD COULD SURVIVE...
BTOOM!
...BUT, SO INDESCRIBABLY EARTH-SHATTERING IS THE POWER OF ULIK'S ARM.. SO DESTRUCTIVE AND DEADLY IS HIS METAL POUNDER... THAT EVEN A NEAR MISS IS ENOUGH TO NUMB THE LEG OF THOR..!
AND, AS THE GOLDEN-HAIRED CHAMPION IS MOMENTARILY UNABLE TO RISE... ULIK POUNCES... WITH THE SAVAGERY AND HATE THAT ONLY A TROLL CAN MUSTER...
DEATH TO THE THUNDER GOD!! NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW! ULIK WILL SHOW NO MERCY!
'TIS THE MOMENT I HAVE FEARED! HE IS UPON ME!
12.

THE LIFE DOTH RETURN TO MY LEG ONCE MORE ---
BUT, ALAS--- 'TIS TOO LATE!


PTHUM!


WHAT GOD OF THUNDER--- YOU LIVE STILL?
YOUR STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR THE LEGENDS THAT SURROUND YOU! BUT, NO MATTER---

---IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO SAVE YOU FROM THE FINAL, FATAL, ALL-POWERFUL BODY-CRUSHER BLOW OF ULIK!!
LET ME THEN GIRD MYSELF.. FOR THE TEST SUPREME IS NOW AT HAND!

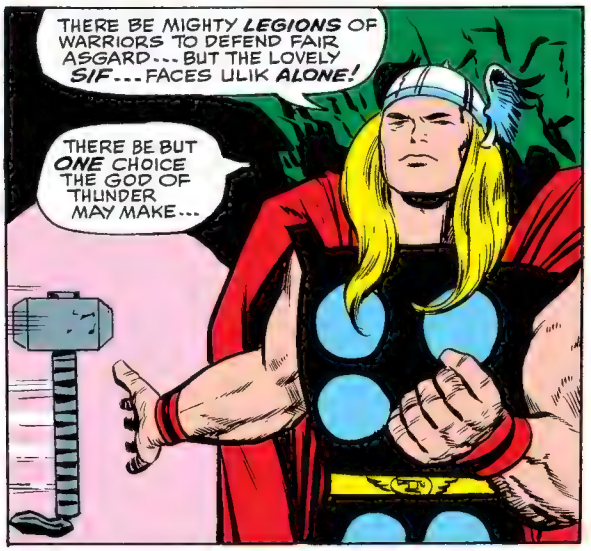
BUT, BEFORE THE UNIVERSALLY-DREADED, SUPREMELY-POTENT BLOW OF ULIK CAN BE DELIVERED ---
A SUDDEN BEAM OF LIGHT--- AS THOUGH FROM OUT OF NOWHERE---
IT DOTH ENVELOP THE MURDEROUS TROLL --- AND CAUSES HIM TO FADE FROM SIGHT!!
CAN THIS BE--- THE HANDIWORK OF ODIN??

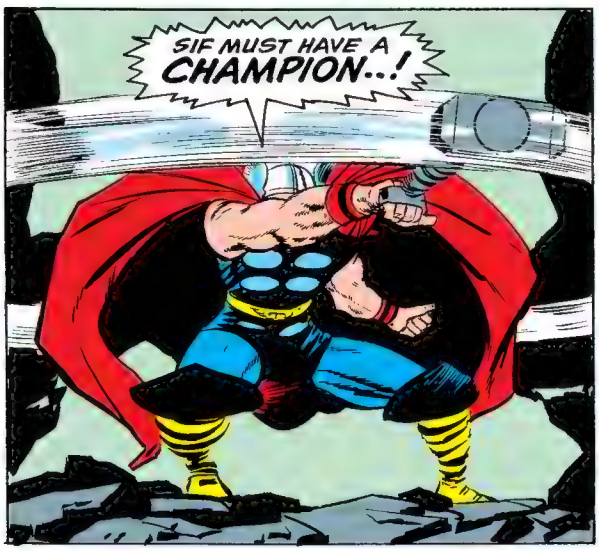
BUT, 'TIS MOST UNSEEMLY--- FOR, AS THE BATTLE WAS MINE--- SO TOO MUST THE VICTORY BE CLAIMED BY THOR --- AND BY NONE OTHER!
REST EASY, THUNDER GOD! THAT WHICH YOU HAVE BEHELD IS NOT THE DOING OF THE LORD OF ASGARD!
A VOICE! BUT ONLY THE THROAT OF A TROLL COULD ISSUE FORTH SUCH SOUND!

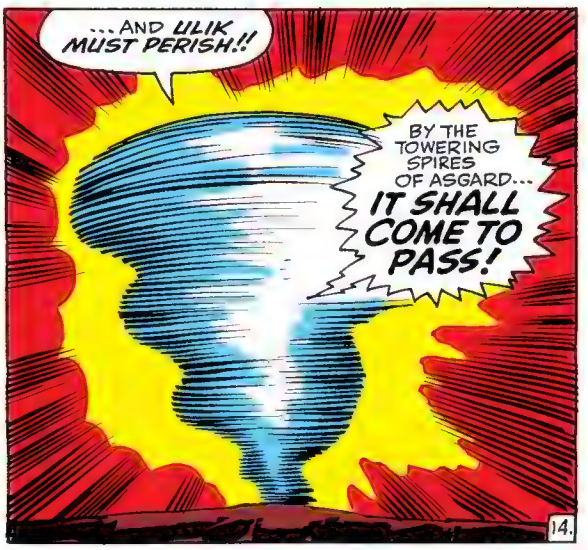
YOU HAVE GUESSED RIGHTLY, ASGARDIAN! I AM GEIRRODUR.. KING OF THE TROLLS!
AND YOU, SON OF ODIN... WITH ALL YOUR POWER... ALL YOUR MIGHT... HAVE FALLEN INTO MY GREATEST TRAP!
TRAP! WHO DARES SPEAK TO THOR OF TRAPS?!!
I DARE... FOR YOU CAN NEVER ESCAPE!!

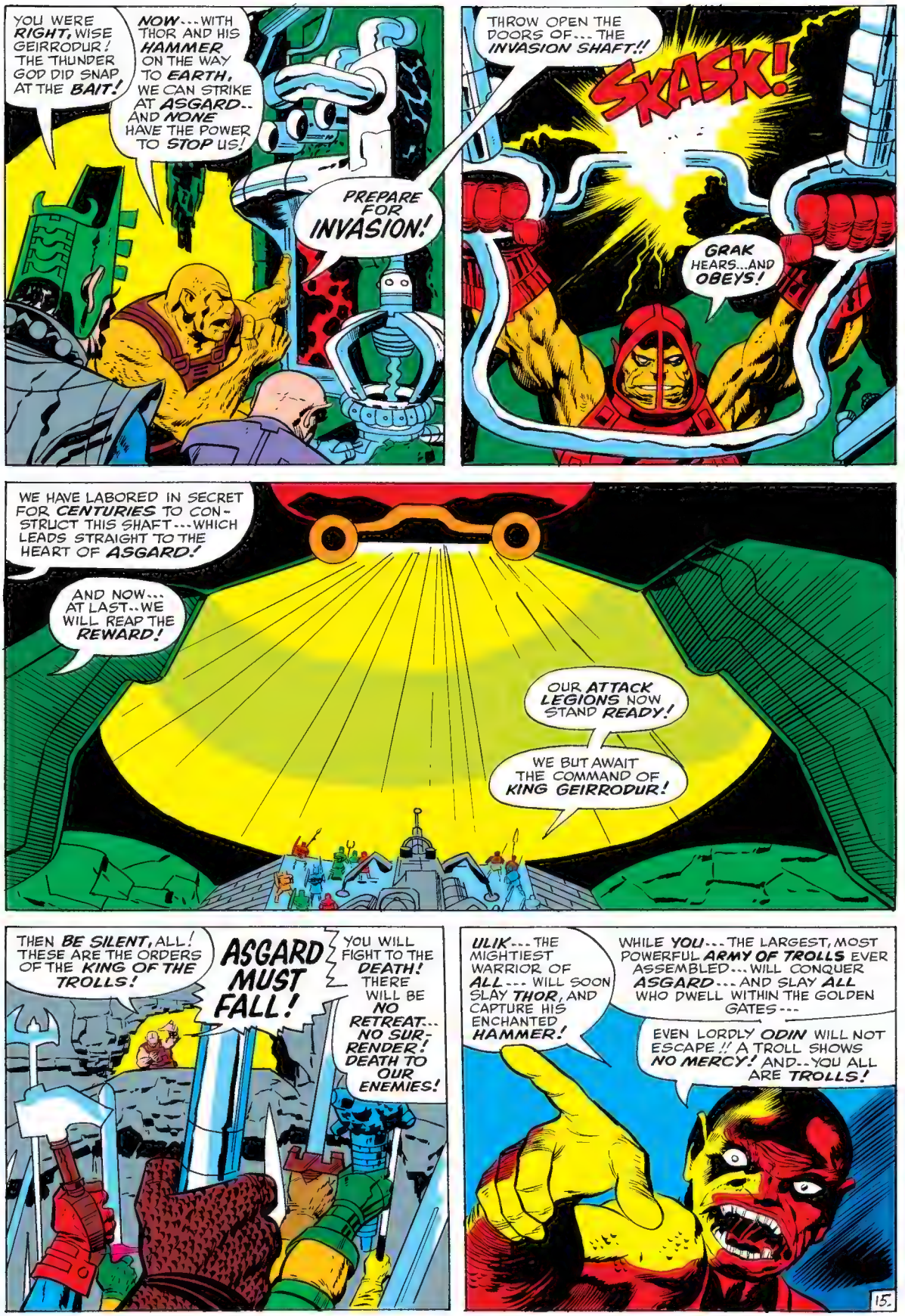
WITH YOU DEFENDING YOUR FATHER'S REALM, I CANNOT WIN A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY!
THUS, BY MEANS OF A RAY, KNOWN ONLY TO THE KING OF THE TROLLS, HAVE I SENT ULIK TO THE PLANET EARTH... WHERE HE SHALL HOLD THE HELPLESS SIF AS HOSTAGE!
NOW, THUNDER GOD... THE CHOICE IS YOURS! REMAIN HERE, AND THE FEMALE DIES!
OR, GET THEE TO EARTH... TO SAVE HER... AND ASGARD FALLS BENEATH THE HEEL OF GEIRRODUR!

VILLAIN MOST FOUL!! NO MATTER WHAT FATE AWAITS ALL OTHERS... THOU SHALT PERISH BY THE HAMMER OF... WAIT!!
I HAVE BEEN DECEIVED! 'TWAS BUT A SHADOWY IMAGE MINE EYES DID BEHOLD...
WHICH FADES INTO NOTHINGNESS EVEN AS I DO STRIKE!


THERE BE MIGHTY LEGIONS OF WARRIORS TO DEFEND FAIR ASGARD... BUT THE LOVELY SIF... FACES ULIK ALONE!
THERE BE BUT ONE CHOICE THE GOD OF THUNDER MAY MAKE...


SIF MUST HAVE A CHAMPION..!


...AND ULIK MUST PERISH!!
BY THE TOWERING SPIRES OF ASGARD... IT SHALL COME TO PASS!


YOU WERE RIGHT, WISE GEIRRODUR! THE THUNDER GOD DID SNAP AT THE BAIT!
NOW... WITH THOR AND HIS HAMMER ON THE WAY TO EARTH, WE CAN STRIKE AT ASGARD-- AND NONE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP US!
PREPARE FOR INVASION!
THROW OPEN THE DOORS OF... THE INVASION SHAFT!!
SKASK!
GRAK HEARS...AND OBEYS!
WE HAVE LABORED IN SECRET FOR CENTURIES TO CONSTRUCT THIS SHAFT... WHICH LEADS STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF ASGARD!
AND NOW... AT LAST--WE WILL REAP THE REWARD!
OUR ATTACK LEGIONS NOW STAND READY!
WE BUT AWAIT THE COMMAND OF KING GEIRRODUR!
THEN BE SILENT, ALL! THESE ARE THE ORDERS OF THE KING OF THE TROLLS!
ASGARD MUST FALL!
YOU WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH! THERE WILL BE NO RETREAT... NO SURRENDER! DEATH TO OUR ENEMIES!
ULIK... THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL... WILL SOON SLAY THOR, AND CAPTURE HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER!
WHILE YOU... THE LARGEST, MOST POWERFUL ARMY OF TROLLS EVER ASSEMBLED... WILL CONQUER ASGARD... AND SLAY ALL WHO DWELL WITHIN THE GOLDEN GATES...
EVEN LORDLY ODIN WILL NOT ESCAPE!! A TROLL SHOWS NO MERCY! AND--YOU ALL ARE TROLLS!

OUR WORKSHOPS HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH THE DEADLIEST WEAPONS EVER MADE... BUT THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL IS YOUR OWN, TROLL SAVAGERY!
NOW STRIKE! THE INVASION IS BEGUN! ASGARD MUST FALL!
ASGARD MUST FALL!
SHOOM!
RRRRRRRRRR

WHILE, AN INDESCRIBABLE DISTANCE AWAY... AT THAT VERY MICRO-SECOND ...A SPINNING VORTEX APPEARS ON A NEW YORK ROOF-TOP...
BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN... I AM HERE!
THE JOURNEY THEN IS ENDED!

BUT, THE BATTLE IS NOT YET BEGUN!
SOMEWHERE ... IN YON VAST, TEEMING METROPOLIS, THE LOVELY SIF IS CAPTIVE!
AND SHE STANDS HELPLESS BEFORE THE THREAT OF ULIK!
ULIK... MIGHTIEST, MOST BESTIAL, MOST DEADLY TROLL OF ALL!

BUT, WHERE'ER THEY BE... THE THUNDER GOD SHALL FIND THEM!
AND THEN SHALL MY HAMMER STRIKE... AS IT HATH NEVER STRUCK BEFORE!
NEXT:
THE FLAMES OF BATTLE!
16.

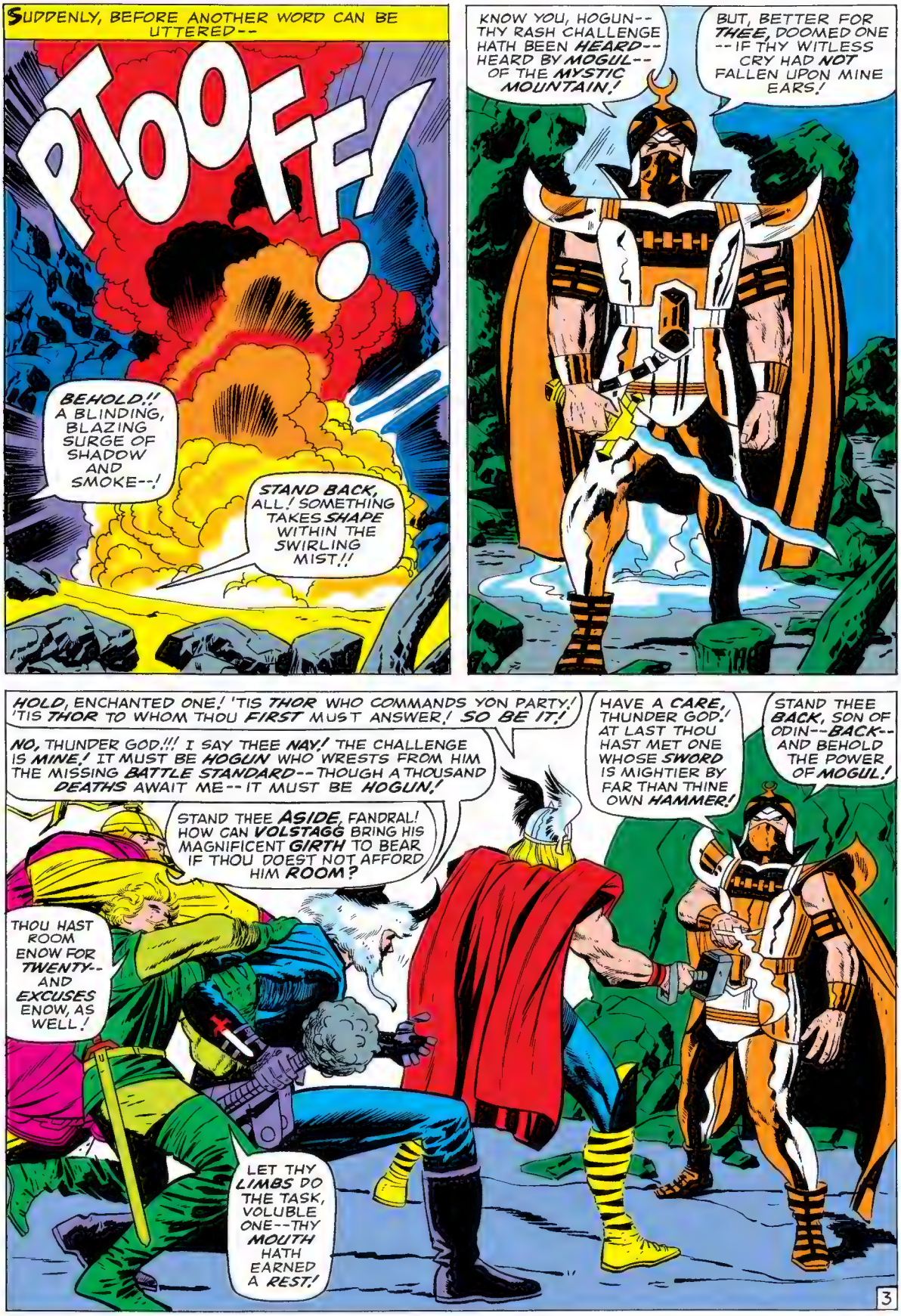
TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
BEGINNING:
"THE TRAGEDY OF HOGUN!"
ON THE TRAIL TO ASGARD, MIGHTY THOR AND HIS COMRADES-AT-ARMS, HOGUN THE GRIM-- FANDRAL THE DASHING-- FOLLOWED BY THE VORACIOUS VOLSTAGG--FIND A GRIM SIGHT ALONG THE TRAIL--
'TIS SAGUTA-- A WARRIOR FROM MY OWN HOMELAND!
CUT ME DOWN-- I PRAY-- ELSE SLAY ME-- ON THE SPOT--!
COURAGE, STRANGER! THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL SHALL FREE THEE IN A TRICE!
SPEAK COUNTRYMAN!! WHO HATH DONE A DEED SO FOUL TO THEE?
FABULOUSLY PRESENTED AT ITS FULL FLAVOR PEAK BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: ARTIE SIMEK
1

WE HAVE FOUND THEE, SAGUTA, BUT WE HAVE FOUND THEE TOO LATE!
A VILLAINY SUCH AS THIS--ON ASGARD SOIL--MUST BE SUMMARILY AVENGED!
BEFORE THE BREATH DOTH LEAVE THY BODY--SPEAK ME THE NAME OF HIM WHO HATH SLAIN THEE!
THEN--HEAR ME--HOGUN--

LONG HAVE OUR PEOPLE--THOUGHT THEE DEAD! BUT--NOW I SEE--THOU DIDST BUT FLEE--THE DREADED TYRANNY OF--MOGUL!
I, TOO, HAVE DARED--! I, TOO, HAVE FLED--BUT--HE FOUND ME--!
I WAS LEFT--TO PERISH--SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT KNOW--NONE MAY FLEE--FROM--MOGUL--!
WHAT?!! DIDST MINE EARS HEAR RIGHTLY?? DIDST THOU UTTER THE VILE NAME OF--MOGUL?!!

WHERE IS HE?? SAGUTA--THOU CANST NOT DIE TILL I DO KNOW!!
TELL ME, COUNTRYMAN--WHERE IS MOGUL??
THOU ART TOO LATE, GRIM HOGUN! HE HATH BEEN SILENCED--BY DEATH!

NO! IT CANNOT BE! I MUST FIND HIM! I MUST FIND MOGUL!
THOR! VOLSTAGG! TO MY SIDE! I CANNOT RESTRAIN HIM ALONE!
HE HEARS US NOT! TRULY, HE BE LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!
TAKE HEART, FANRAL--VALOROUS VOLSTAGG DOTH HEAR THEE!
'TIS NOT THINE EARS I NEED--BUT THY GIRTH!
SHOW THYSELF, MOGUL!! 'TIS HOGUN WHO CALLS! HOGUN WHO CHALLENGES THEE!
2


SUDDENLY, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED--
PLOOFF!
BEHOLD!! A BLINDING, BLAZING SURGE OF SHADOW AND SMOKE--!
STAND BACK, ALL! SOMETHING TAKES SHAPE WITHIN THE SWIRLING MIST!!
KNOW YOU, HOGUN-- THY RASH CHALLENGE HATH BEEN HEARD-- HEARD BY MOGUL-- OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!
BUT, BETTER FOR THEE, DOOMED ONE --IF THY WITLESS CRY HAD NOT FALLEN UPON MINE EARS!
HOLD, ENCHANTED ONE! 'TIS THOR WHO COMMANDS YON PARTY! 'TIS THOR TO WHOM THOU FIRST MUST ANSWER! SO BE IT!
NO, THUNDER GOD!!! I SAY THEE NAY! THE CHALLENGE IS MINE! IT MUST BE HOGUN WHO WRESTS FROM HIM THE MISSING BATTLE STANDARD--THOUGH A THOUSAND DEATHS AWAIT ME--IT MUST BE HOGUN!
STAND THEE ASIDE, FANDRAL! HOW CAN VOLSTAGG BRING HIS MAGNIFICENT GIRTH TO BEAR IF THOU DOEST NOT AFFORD HIM ROOM?
THOU HAST ROOM ENOW FOR TWENTY-- AND EXCUSES ENOW, AS WELL!
LET THY LIMBS DO THE TASK, VOLUBLE ONE--THY MOUTH HATH EARNED A REST!
HAVE A CARE, THUNDER GOD! AT LAST THOU HAST MET ONE WHOSE SWORD IS MIGHTIER BY FAR THAN THINE OWN HAMMER!
STAND THEE BACK, SON OF ODIN--BACK-- AND BEHOLD THE POWER OF MOGUL!
3

FASTER THAN A SERPENT DOTH IT STRIKE--
AND, SMALL WONDER--FOR IN TRUTH IT HATH LIFE OF ITS OWN--A SERPENT'S LIFE!!
NAY, NONE MAY CHALLENGE MOGUL --OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!
THINKEST THOU A MERE SORCERER'S TRICK CAN STAY THE WRATH OF THOR?
THOU HAST COMMITTED MURDER MOST FOUL UPON THE HALLOWED SOIL OF ASGARD--AND FOR SUCH OFFENSE, THERE MUST BE RETALIATION MOST SWIFT!
THUNDER GOD!! TAKE WARNING! HOGUN WILL NOT BE CHEATED OF HIS VENGEANCE --NOT EVEN BY THEE!
LET US ATTACK IN UNISON! MY BLADE FAIR THIRSTS TO TEST ITS METTLE AGAINST YON SERPENTINE SWORD!
VALIANT VOLSTAGG WOULDST FIGHT ALONE--BUT WILL NOT DEPRIVE THEE OF THY PLEASURES!
WHY STANDEST THOU THUS, MOGUL? DEFEND THYSELF--OR DIE!
NONE MAY THREATEN MOGUL!
LOOK YOU SKYWARD, THUNDER GOD--
BY THE BEARD OF ODIN--!!
SEE WHY MOGUL SHALL NOT PERISH!
BASE COWARD!! THOU HAST SUMMONED THY JINNI DEVIL!!
BUT, THOUGH ALL THE DEMONS OF THE NETHERWORLD ARE AT THY SIDE--HOGUN SHALL DESTROY THEE!
TOO LONG HAVE I TARRIED HERE! I HAVE MATTERS OF GREATER MOMENT TO OVERSEE!
BUT, IF BATTLE BE TO YOUR LIKING, FIND YE THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN, AND 'TIS THERE THY DOOM AWAITS THEE!
THOR!! HURL NOT THY HAMMER! NONE BUT HOGUN MUST BRING HIM TO HIS KNEES! THE CAUSE IS MINE!
4

MOGUL HAS EVER BEEN SERVED BY HIS GIANT JINNI SLAVE--THE LAST OF A SPECIES WHOSE ORIGIN IS UNKNOWN, BUT WHO POSSESSES POWERS WHICH DEFY THE IMAGINATION!
'TWAS MOGUL WHO ENSLAVED MY PEOPLE--WHO HOLDS THEM STILL IN BONDAGE! 'TWAS HE WHO DROVE ME FROM MY LAND!
AND, THOUGH I SEARCHED LO, THESE MANY YEARS, I COULD NE'ER FIND THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN ON WHICH HE DWELLS!
FASTER, MY INVINCIBLE SLAVE--FASTER! ONCE WE REACH THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN, THEN MOGUL IS TRULY MASTER OF ALL!
NOT EVEN THE AWESOME MIGHT OF ASGARD ASSEMBLED CAN STAND AGAINST ME!

THOU MUST NEEDS LEAVE ME NOW--AS I CONTINUE UPON MY QUEST ALONE!
NO MATTER THE TIME IT TAKES--NO MATTER THE PRICE I MUST PAY--I SHALL FIND THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN --I SHALL DESTROY MOGUL!
NAY, MY FRIEND--THOU SHALT NOT GO ALONE! AT LAST WE KNOW WHY A SMILE DOTH NEVER CROSS THY LIPS--WHY THOU HAS EVER BEEN HOGUN--THE GRIM!
WE SHALL NOT DESERT THEE --FOR THOU ART BROTHER TO US ALL--NOW AND FOREVER!
5

BUT, MINE OWN FATHER--MY BROTHERS, YOUNG AND OLD--ALL PERISHED--SEEKING THE ACCURSED MOUNTAIN! SUCH A FATE--IS NOT--FOR THEE TO SHARE!
BY THE SWORD I CLUTCH-- BY THE NAME I BEAR--I SWEAR THAT HOGUN'S FATE SHALL BE THE FATE OF FANDRAL!
SO SPEAKS VOLSTAGG --THE FEARLESS FLOWER OF CHIVALRY!
IN THE NAME OF ODIN--SO SAY WE ALL!
NEXT:
TO FIND THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
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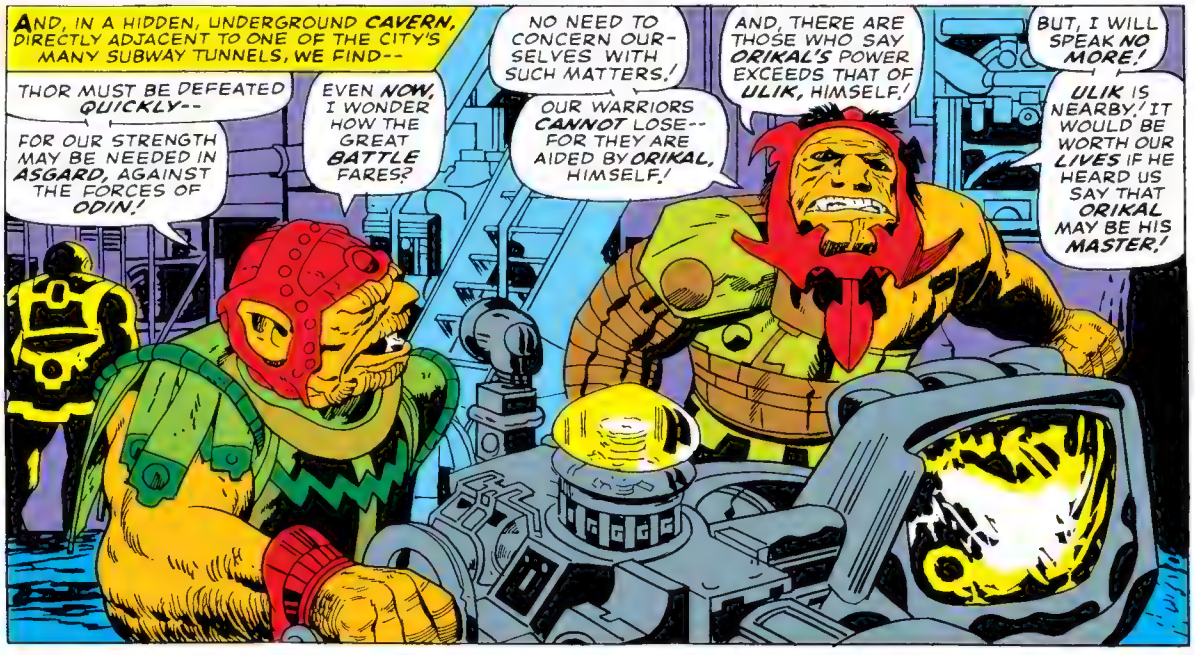
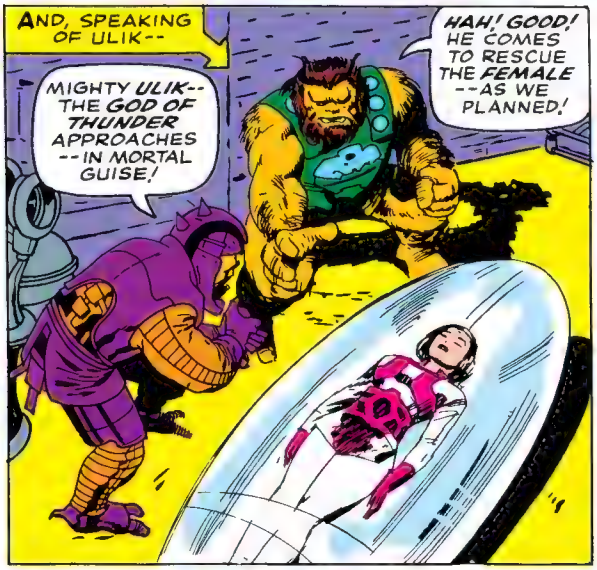
THE MIGHTY THOR!
FROM ASGARD TO EARTH...
"THE FLAMES OF BATTLE!"
VERILY, IT HATH BEEN WRITTEN...
THE BEAUTIFUL GODDESS, SIF, HAS BEEN ABDUCTED BY ULIK, DEADLIEST AND MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE TROLLS! IN AN EFFORT TO CAPTURE THE HAMMER OF THOR, HE HAS TAKEN HER TO EARTH--AS BAIT FOR A TRAP IN WHICH TO CATCH THE GOD OF THUNDER!
THOUGH AN ARMY OF TROLLS NOW STORMS THE VERY GATES OF ASGARD, I MUST DESCEND TO EARTH--
FOR, THE TEEMING MILLIONS BELOW CAN LITTLE SUSPECT THE DEADLY DANGER THEY FACE--SO LONG AS THE MURDEROUS ULIK WALKS AMONGST THEM!
GARNISHED WITH GRANDEUR BY
STAN (THE MAN) LEE
and
JACK (KING) KIRBY
INKED BY: VINCE (THE PRINCE) COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: ARTIE (THE SMARTIE) SIMEK
1

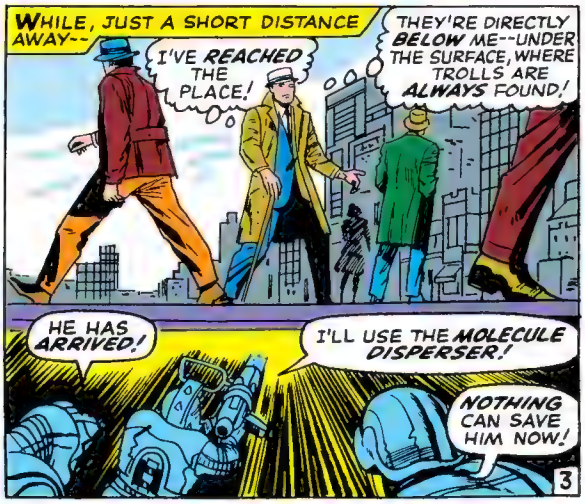
SILENTLY, THOR LANDS UPON A TOWERING ROOFTOP, LIKE SOME GREAT, TWO-LEGGED BIRD OF PREY--
SIF IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS VICINITY! I DO SENSE IT!
ONE IMMORTAL MAY EVER DETECT THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER!
BUT, SHOULD I WALK THE STREETS IN MY GODLY RAIMENT, I AM CERTAIN TO ATTRACT TOO MUCH NOTICE AMONGST THE HUMANS!
THUS MUST I ASSUME A DIFFERENT GUISE--ONE WHICH WILL ALLOW ME TO PASS UNNOTICED!
'TIS TIME FOR THE GOD OF THUNDER TO FADE FROM SIGHT--
WHOOM!
--TO BE REPLACED BY DR. DON BLAKE, THE LAME PHYSICIAN WHO IS ALL TOO HUMAN--ALL TOO WOEFULLY MORTAL!
EVEN IN MY IDENTITY AS DON BLAKE, THE AURA OF SIF IS SO UNFORGETTABLE THAT I STILL CAN SENSE HER PRESENCE!
I MUST GO IN THAT DIRECTION IN THE SAME MANNER AS ONE MIGHT FOLLOW A PSYCHIC HOMING SIGNAL!
I'M THANKFUL I CAN STILL SENSE HER, FOR IT MEANS--SHE STILL LIVES!
YET, THERE IS ONE THING DR. BLAKE IS NOT AWARE OF--
THOR'S ARRIVAL ON EARTH, AS WELL AS HIS MIRACULOUS CHANGE TO A HUMAN IDENTITY, HAVE BEEN MONITORED AND RECORDED--BY THE HIDDEN TROLLS--!
HE COMES THIS WAY!
WE ARE PREPARED!
2


AND, IN A HIDDEN, UNDERGROUND CAVERN, DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO ONE OF THE CITY'S MANY SUBWAY TUNNELS, WE FIND--
THOR MUST BE DEFEATED QUICKLY--
FOR OUR STRENGTH MAY BE NEEDED IN ASGARD, AGAINST THE FORCES OF ODIN!
EVEN NOW, I WONDER HOW THE GREAT BATTLE FARES?
NO NEED TO CONCERN OURSELVES WITH SUCH MATTERS,!
OUR WARRIORS CANNOT LOSE--FOR THEY ARE AIDED BY ORIKAL, HIMSELF!
AND, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY ORIKAL'S POWER EXCEEDS THAT OF ULIK, HIMSELF!
BUT, I WILL SPEAK NO MORE!
ULIK IS NEARBY! IT WOULD BE WORTH OUR LIVES IF HE HEARD US SAY THAT ORIKAL MAY BE HIS MASTER!


AND, SPEAKING OF ULIK--
MIGHTY ULIK--THE GOD OF THUNDER APPROACHES--IN MORTAL GUISE!
HAH! GOOD! HE COMES TO RESCUE THE FEMALE--AS WE PLANNED!

THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE WAITED FOR! OUR LAST BATTLE WAS INTERRUPTED--BEFORE I COULD DESTROY HIM!
REMEMBER--OUR FIRST TASK IS TO CAPTURE HIS HAMMER--AND THEN YOU MAY HAVE YOUR REVENGE!!
YOU DARE TRY TO TELL ULIK WHAT TO DO?!!
DID KING GEIRRODUR HIMSELF NOT PUT ME IN COMMAND HERE?
FOOL!! NONE CAN COMMAND ULIK! I AM SUPREME!

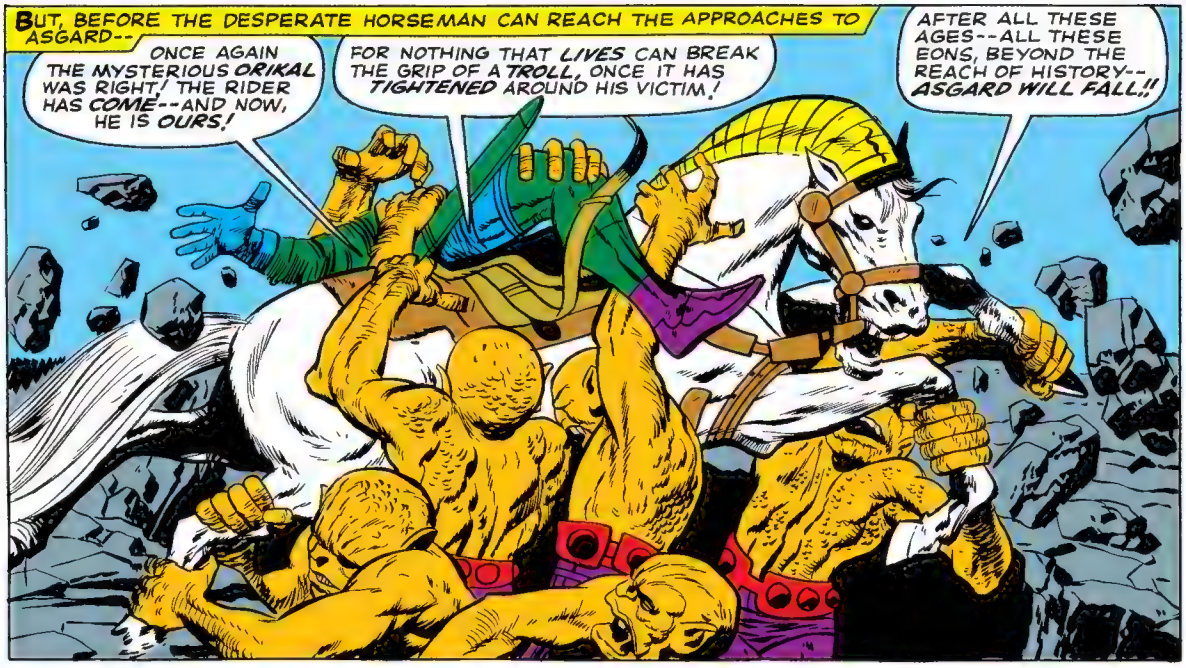
GEIRRODUR HIMSELF TREMBLES BEFORE MY MATCHLESS MIGHT!
THE SAME MIGHT WHICH WILL CRUSH THE ACCURSED THOR BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!
AND THEN, WITH HIM DESTROYED, I'LL UNLEASH MY FURY UPON THE HELPLESS HUMANS, BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS PUNY PLANET!

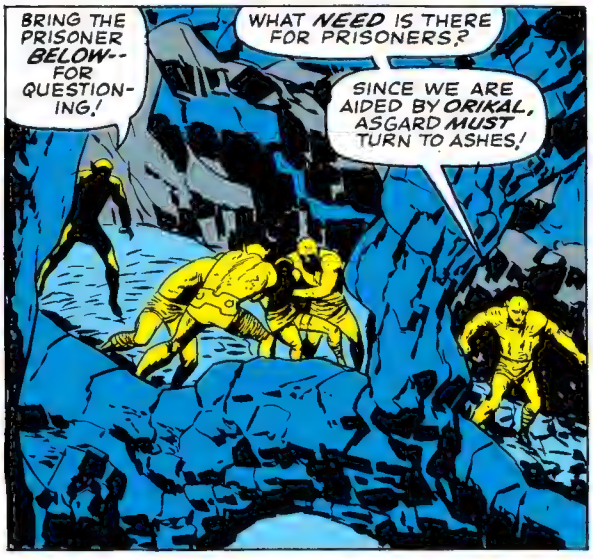

WHILE, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY--
I'VE REACHED THE PLACE!
THEY'RE DIRECTLY BELOW ME--UNDER THE SURFACE, WHERE TROLLS ARE ALWAYS FOUND!
HE HAS ARRIVED!
I'LL USE THE MOLECULE DISPERSER!
NOTHING CAN SAVE HIM NOW!

SO QUICKLY, SO SILENTLY DO THE TROLLS ATTACK, THAT DON BLAKE IS IN THEIR GRASP WITHOUT ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF A SINGLE PASSERBY--!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE GROUND!
IT MUST BE--IT IS--THE TROLLS!!
THEY--THEY'VE GOT ME!
THE PAVEMENT'S MOLECULES ARE MELTING--!
QUICK! DRAG HIM DOWN!
HE IS OURS!
HAH! WE HAVE HIS CANE!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TAP IT--AND THE HAMMER OF THOR IS OURS!
ORIKAL'S PLAN WAS RIGHT!
QUIET, YOU FOOL! ULIK MUST NOT HEAR YOU MENTION ORIKAL!!
NO MATTER! WITH THE HAMMER OF THOR IN HAND, I WILL FEAR NO ONE--NOT EVEN ULIK!
NOW--JUST ONE TAP, AND POWER WITHOUT MEASURE IS MINE!
NEVER! ONLY THOR CAN WORK THE ENCHANTMENT! IN YOUR HAND, THE CANE WILL REMAIN JUST A CANE!
THTAP!
STAND ASIDE! LET ULIK AT HIM--HE'LL BE HAPPY TO TEACH US THE CANE'S SECRETS WHEN I'M DONE!
SPEAK, YOU FOOL! IF ULIK REACHES YOU FIRST, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
TELL ME--HOW DOES IT WORK ??
QUICK! HIT THE FLOOR ONCE MORE! I'LL SHOW YOU--!
IT'S MY ONE CHANCE! MY TIMING MUST BE PERFECT!
4

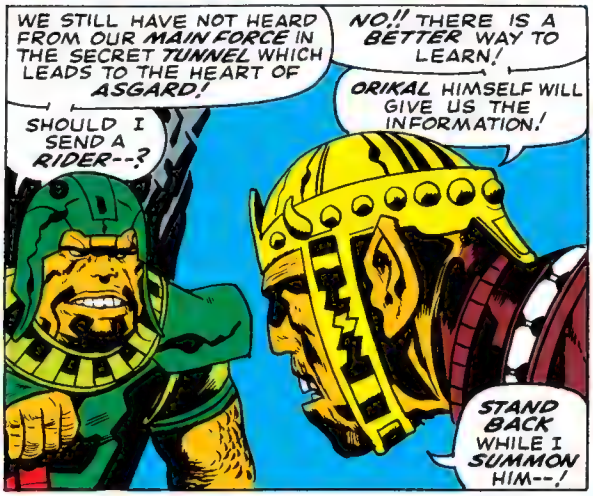
I'LL DO IT! IF IT DOESN'T WORK, I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF--BEFORE ULIK CAN REACH YOU!
NOW! I'VE GOT TO REACH OUT--MY FINGERS MUST TOUCH IT--JUST AS IT STRIKES THE FLOOR!
IF I MISS --I'M FINISHED!
BUT, BY THE STAR-STUDDED SKIES OF ASGARD, DON BLAKE DOES NOT MISS--!
SPTAKKK!
MY CANE IS HAMMER AGAIN-- AND I--AM THUNDER GOD ONCE MORE!
NOW TO ME, MY ENCHANTED MALLET!! TO THINE AVENGING MASTER, ETERNAL MJOLNIR!
MISERABLE WEAKLINGS-- YOU HAVE ALL FAILED!
NOW STAND ASIDE--FOR ULIK!
SNARLING IN BESTIAL RAGE, SUCH AS ONLY A TROLL CAN MUSTER, THE MERCILESS ULIK SLIDES HIS FANTASTIC FIST POUNDERS ONTO EACH HAND--
NOW, ACCURSED SON OF ODIN, PREPARE TO FALL BEFORE THE POWER OF ULIK!
WITH YOU DESTROYED, THE IMMORTAL SIF WILL BE MINE--AS WELL AS THE ENCHANTED HAMMER!
THOU DIDST DARE TO THREATEN A FEMALE OF ASGARD!! THOU DIDST PROFANE HER NAME BY THINE UTTERANCE!
IF EVER THOU HAD REASON TO EXPECT VICTORY OVER THOR--SUCH REASON IS NOW FOREVER VANISHED!
I HAVE SPOKEN!
5

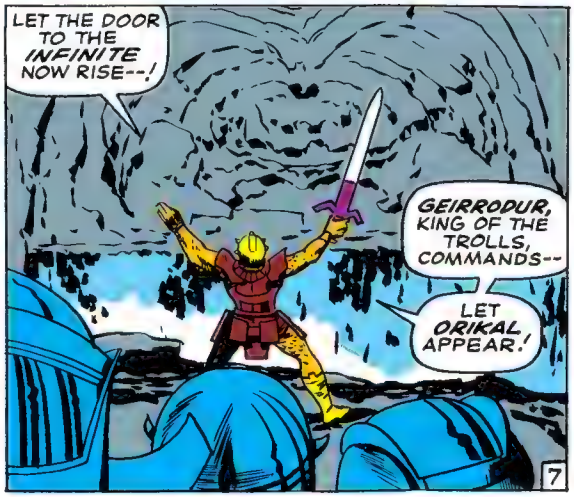
BUT, EVEN AS THOR AND ULIK PREPARE TO BATTLE FOR THEIR LIVES, ANOTHER STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL IS IN PROGRESS IN FABLED ASGARD--WHERE, GUIDED BY THE MYSTERIOUS POWER OF ORIKAL, THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS HORDE OF TROLLS ATTACK WHEREVER THE ASGARDIAN DEFENSES ARE THE WEAKEST--
ACCURSED ASGARDIANS!! WHY DO YOU NOT FALL BACK??
OUR FORCES HAVE A HUNDRED TIMES YOUR NUMBER!
WARRIORS OF THE REALM--FIGHT ON! WE BATTLE TO THE DEATH!
IN ODIN'S NAME--WE STAND FAST!
WE SHALL NOT YIELD--BUT WE MUST HAVE REINFORCEMENTS!
ADVANCE! ADVANCE! CRUSH THEM BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!
GET THEE TO THE PALACE ROYAL! LORD ODIN SHALL NOT REFUSE THY REQUEST FOR MORE WARRIORS!
I GO!
ONWARD--FOR ASGARD!
I PRAY THAT NOBLE ODIN DOTH TRULY POSSESS WARRIORS ENOW!
FOR, THROUGHOUT THE GOLDEN REALM IT IS EVER THE SAME--
THE ENEMY STRIKES WHERE OUR DEFENSES BE WEAKEST!
WOULD THAT MIGHTY THOR WERE AT OUR SIDE IN THIS MOMENT OF GRAVEST PERIL!
6

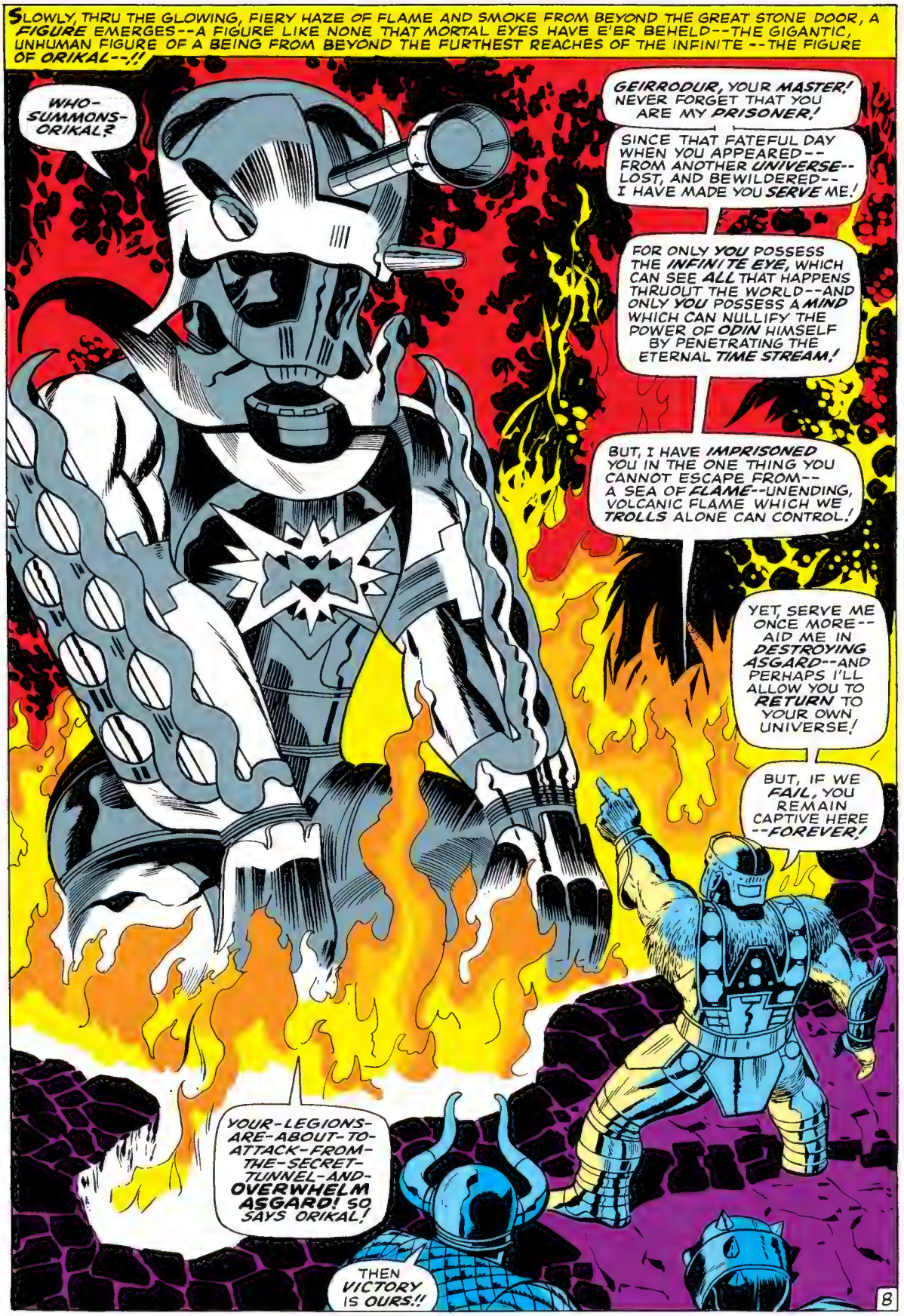

BUT, BEFORE THE DESPERATE HORSEMAN CAN REACH THE APPROACHES TO ASGARD--
ONCE AGAIN THE MYSTERIOUS ORIKAL WAS RIGHT! THE RIDER HAS COME--AND NOW, HE IS OURS!
FOR NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN BREAK THE GRIP OF A TROLL, ONCE IT HAS TIGHTENED AROUND HIS VICTIM!
AFTER ALL THESE AGES--ALL THESE EONS, BEYOND THE REACH OF HISTORY--ASGARD WILL FALL!!


BRING THE PRISONER BELOW--FOR QUESTIONING!
WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR PRISONERS?
SINCE WE ARE AIDED BY ORIKAL, ASGARD MUST TURN TO ASHES!

MEANWHILE, IN THE SHADOWY THRONE ROOM OF GIERRODUR, THE TROLL KING THINKS HIS OWN DARK THOUGHTS--
OUR FORCES ADVANCE ON EVERY FRONT!
ASGARD IS DOOMED!
SO SAY YOU!! BUT THE GOLDEN CITY WILL NEVER SURRENDER WHILST EVEN ONE ASGARDIAN STILL LIVES!
THEREFORE, HEED THE WORD OF YOUR KING--ALL MUST DIE!
ESPECIALLY THOR! THERE IS NO SAFETY WHILST HE DOES LIVE!


WE STILL HAVE NOT HEARD FROM OUR MAIN FORCE IN THE SECRET TUNNEL WHICH LEADS TO THE HEART OF ASGARD!
SHOULD I SEND A RIDER--?
NO!! THERE IS A BETTER WAY TO LEARN!
ORIKAL HIMSELF WILL GIVE US THE INFORMATION!
STAND BACK WHILE I SUMMON HIM--!


LET THE DOOR TO THE INFINITE NOW RISE--!
GEIRRODUR, KING OF THE TROLLS, COMMANDS--
LET ORIKAL APPEAR!


SLOWLY, THRU THE GLOWING, FIERY HAZE OF FLAME AND SMOKE FROM BEYOND THE GREAT STONE DOOR, A FIGURE EMERGES--A FIGURE LIKE NONE THAT MORTAL EYES HAVE E'ER BEHELD--THE GIGANTIC, UNHUMAN FIGURE OF A BEING FROM BEYOND THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE INFINITE --THE FIGURE OF ORIKAL--!!
WHO-SUMMONS-ORIKAL?
GEIRRODUR, YOUR MASTER! NEVER FORGET THAT YOU ARE MY PRISONER!
SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN YOU APPEARED--FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE--LOST, AND BEWILDERED--I HAVE MADE YOU SERVE ME!
FOR ONLY YOU POSSESS THE INFINITE EYE, WHICH CAN SEE ALL THAT HAPPENS THRUOUT THE WORLD--AND ONLY YOU POSSESS A MIND WHICH CAN NULLIFY THE POWER OF ODIN HIMSELF BY PENETRATING THE ETERNAL TIME STREAM!
BUT, I HAVE IMPRISONED YOU IN THE ONE THING YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM--A SEA OF FLAME--UNENDING, VOLCANIC FLAME WHICH WE TROLLS ALONE CAN CONTROL!
YET, SERVE ME ONCE MORE--AID ME IN DESTROYING ASGARD--AND PERHAPS I'LL ALLOW YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR OWN UNIVERSE!
BUT, IF WE FAIL, YOU REMAIN CAPTIVE HERE --FOREVER!
YOUR-LEGIONS-ARE-ABOUT-TO-ATTACK-FROM-THE-SECRET-TUNNEL-AND-OVERWHELM ASGARD! SO SAYS ORIKAL!
THEN VICTORY IS OURS!!
8

BUT, WHAT OF THOR AND ULIK? WHAT OF THE INCREDIBLE CONFRONTATION, BACK ON EARTH, BETWEEN THE DEADLIEST, MOST POWERFUL TROLL OF ALL, AND THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER--?
FIRST, YOU FALL-- AND THEN, SIF WILL BE MINE! I CANNOT FAIL!
THOU CANST NOT SUCCEED, WHILE THE THUNDER GOD LIVES!
BUT, THE THUNDER GOD WILL LIVE NO MORE!
MY METAL POUNDERS WILL FINISH YOU FOREVER!
LIKE THIS!
-ARGHHH!-
YOU SIDE-STEPPED MY BLOW!
CRASH!
AND NOW, VILLAIN-- PREPARE TO FACE THE POWER OF THOR!
THE SON OF ODIN IS AN EASY TARGET FOR NONE!
FOR, THE FISTS OF THE THUNDER GOD ARE MIGHTY AS ANY WEAPONS --NO MATTER HOW LETHAL THEY BE!
SPOK!
HIS STRENGTH IS TRULY THE EQUAL OF MINE OWN!
HE HATH RECOVERED FROM A BLOW BY THOR--AND EVEN NOW CAUSES THE DEADLY WEIGHT OF THE EARTH ABOVE TO FALL UPON ME!
THOOM!
9

BUT THEN, JUST BEFORE THE DEADLY AVALANCHE CAN STRIKE--
BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN--
--I STRIKE!
NO! YOU CANNOT ROB ME OF MY VICTORY!
I WON'T LET YOU--!!
I'M THE STRONGEST OF ALL! I CAN'T LOSE!
DEATH TO THE THUNDER GOD!
NOTHING CAN STOP THE INVINCIBLE POWER OF ULIK!
THEN, BEFORE MIGHTY THOR CAN COUNTER-ATTACK, AN INDESCRIBABLY STRONG METAL POUNDER STRIKES HIM BRUTALLY ON HIS HAND--!
THIS WILL MAKE YOU DROP YOUR HAMMER!
THOK!
DROP IT, THUNDER GOD!! DROP IT, OR I ATTACK AGAIN!
THOUGH MY WRIST DOTH SORELY PAIN ME--YON HAMMER SHALL NEVER LEAVE MY HAND AGAIN!
THEN, SON OF ODIN, 'TIS TIME FOR YOU TO DIE!

NONE CAN SURVIVE A DIRECT BLOW STRUCK BY ULIK'S MATCHLESS FIST POUNDERS!
NOW, UPON HIM, ALL,! ULIK HAS FINISHED THE THUNDER GOD AT LAST!
BTROK!
HIS HAMMER,! IT MUST BE OURS,!
GREAT IS ULIK! HE HAS DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE! HE HAS VANQUISHED THOR,!
ONCE THE ENCHANTED MALLET IS OURS, NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE CAN RESIST US,!
WAIT! WHAT IS THIS,! THE THUNDER GOD STIRS! HE STILL STRUGGLES!
HE RISES! WE CANNOT HOLD HIM,!
HE HAS SURVIVED MY MOST DEADLY BLOW!
HE CARRIES US ALOFT-- AS THOUGH WE BE WEIGHT-LESS!
NEVER HAVE I FACED SUCH STRENGTH-- SUCH POWER UNBRIDLED!
NEVER BEFORE HAST THOU FACED-- THE SON OF ODIN!
AND NOW-- BEGONE!
THUS HAVE I GAINED A MOMENT'S RESPITE--A MOMENT WHICH I DO MOST SORELY NEED --FOR MY LIMBS BE TRULY WEARY!
BUT HOLD! WHAT IS THAT WHICH I DO NOW DIMLY PERCEIVE--?
CAN I BUT BELIEVE MINE EYES?
11

'TIS SIF--ALIVE AND UNHARMED, ALBEIT IMPRISONED WITHIN A STRANGE TRANSPARENT SPHERE!
SHE MUST BE FREED, ERE THE MERCILESS ONES CAN REGROUP IN FORCE AND ATTACK ONCE MORE!
AND YET, 'TIS A PROBLEM MORE DIFFICULT BY FAR TO STATE THAN SOLVE!
FOR I DARE NOT SHATTER YON MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE FOR FEAR OF INJURING THE FAIR CAPTIVE WITHIN!
THUS, I PLACE MY MALLET UPON THE GROUND--
AT SUCH A TIME, MERE STRENGTH ALONE SHALL AVAIL ME NAUGHT!
ALL IS NOT YET LOST! LET HIM JUST RELEASE THE ENCHANTED HAMMER!
NOW--THE ORB OF ORIKAL SHALL DO ITS WONDROUS WORK!
HAH! EVEN DEPRIVED OF THE POWER OF ULIK, WE HAVE WON!
THE UNKNOWN SORCERY OF ORIKAL HAS OVERCOME THE MALLET'S URU MAGIC!
ONCE WITHIN THE GLEAMING ORB, IT SHALL BE FOREVER OURS!
THUNDER GOD--YOU ARE VANQUISHED!
A NEW AND GREATER POWER NOW POSSESSES YOUR MIGHTIEST OF WEAPONS!
MY HAMMER! IT HATH VANISHED!

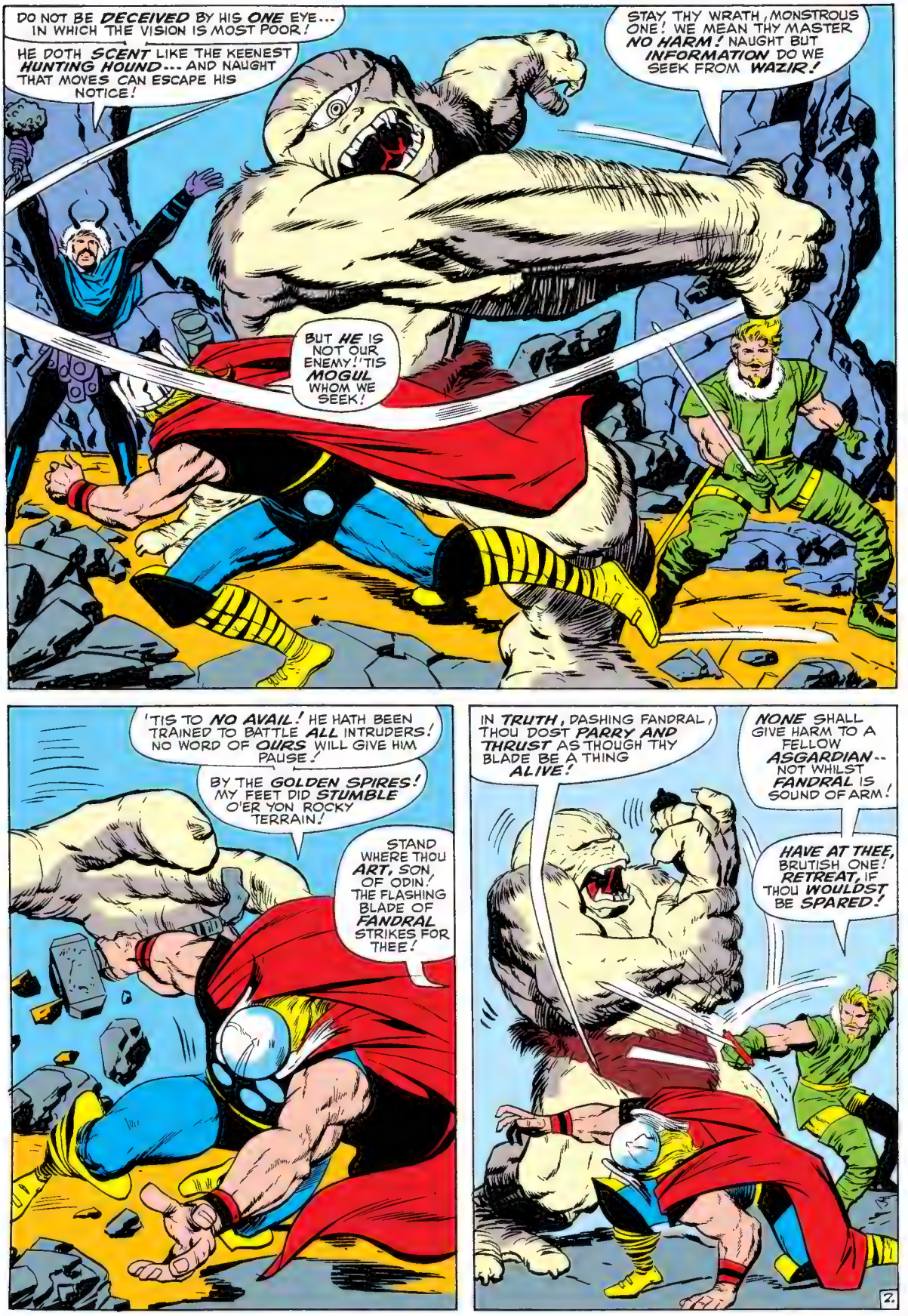
BUT, IT CANNOT BE! NONE MAY SEIZE THAT WHICH ODIN HIMSELF HATH CREATED!
HEAR ME, EVIL ULIK! THOU SHALT PAY A THOUSANDFOLD FOR WHAT THOU HAST PERPETRATED UPON THIS DAY!
NAY, GOD OF THUNDER--IT WAS NOT THE DOING OF ULIK!
I NEED NO WIZARDRY TO SERVE ME IN BATTLE!
STRENGTH ALONE IS ULIK'S ARMOR--AS YOU SHALL LEARN WHEN NEXT WE MEET AGAIN!
QUICKLY, ULIK--INTO THE DIMENSION TUNNEL--BEFORE HE CAN BE UPON US!
WE HAVE WHAT WE SOUGHT! ASGARD NOW IS DOOMED!
AND, BEFORE THE CHARGING WARRIOR CAN REACH HIS FLEEING FOES--
THE TUNNEL WALL HATH TURNED SOLID ONCE MORE!
THEY ARE GONE--AND WITH THEM--MY URU MALLET!
BUT, NO SOONER HAVE THE JUBILANT TROLLS DEPARTED, THAN THE MYSTIC SPHERE WHICH HAD CONTAINED THEIR LOVELY CAPTIVE SLOWLY DISSOLVES INTO WISPY NOTHINGNESS--!
THE TROLLS ARE GONE! THE SPELL IS ENDED! I AM FREE!
YET, I SENSE 'TIS NOT VICTORY TO WHICH SIF OWES HER LIBERATION--BUT RATHER--GRIM DEFEAT!
THUNDER GOD! WHY DO YOU POUND YON WALL IN SUCH AGONIZED DESPAIR?
THUM!
THOR HATH FAILED! WE ARE UNDONE!
THUM!
THE TROLLS HAVE ESCAPED --TAKING WITH THEM--MY HAMMER--THE WEAPON SUPREME!
THEN WE MUST PURSUE THEM! THEY MUST NOT REACH THE GATES OF ASGARD!
THY WORDS ARE FRAUGHT WITH TRUTH--YET, WITHOUT MY MALLET, I AM HELPLESSLY STRANDED UPON THE PLANET EARTH!
FOR, DEPRIVED OF MY HAMMER, THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST RETURN TO MORTAL FORM WITHIN A SCANT SIXTY SECONDS!

MEANWHILE, AT THE OTHER END OF THE ETERNAL RAINBOW BRIDGE, WE FIND A HEAVY-HEARTED ODIN GIRDING FOR BATTLE AS HE HEARS MOST OMINOUS TIDINGS--
'TIS THE SAME THRUOUT THE REALM, SIRE! EVERY-WHERE WE ARE SORELY OUT-NUMBERED!
MY PLACE IS WITH MY WARRIORS!
SO BE IT!
BUT, WHAT IS THIS? COMBAT ARMOR FOR THE MOST MAJESTIC OF ALL?!!
BUT, SIRE-- IF ANY HARM SHOULD BEFALL THEE--!
THEN, OTHERS SHALL RISE TO FIGHT IN MY STEAD!
BAROOM
THE SOUND OF ATTACK-- WITHIN THE GOLDEN GATES!
SEIZE THOU THY WEAPONS-- THE TROLLS BE UPON US!
WHAT MERE MORTAL WORDS OF OURS CAN HOPE TO DEPICT THE SAVAGRY AND SCOPE OF THE TROLL INVASION? ARMED WITH UNIMAGINABLE WEAPONS, DEVISED BY ORIKAL, AND CREATED IN THEIR FEARSOME UNDERGROUND FORGES, THE SEEMINGLY LIMITLESS HORDES CRASH THRU THE LAST DEFENSES OF THE ETERNAL REALM--REACHING THE VERY HEART OF BESEIGED ASGARD--!
SHOW NO MERCY! NOT AN ASGARDIAN MUST REMAIN ALIVE!
ONWARD! ONWARD! ATTACK-- TILL ASGARD IS NO MORE!
EVEN THE POWER OF ODIN CANNOT STAND AGAINST US NOW! AND NONE THERE ARE TO COME TO HIS AID!
THE BASTIONS HAVE BEEN BREACHED! THE ENEMY IS UPON US!
SHOO
14

IN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER, THE BESTIAL, BLOODTHIRSTY LEGION OF TROLLS POURS THRU THE BREACH--DRIVEN BY HATE, AND ENVY, AND AN INSATIABLE LUST TO DESTROY--!
LEAVE NOT A STONE UNTURNED! LEAVE NOT A MAN ALIVE! NONE BUT THE TROLLS MUST SURVIVE THIS FATEFUL DAY!
ONWARD--TO ODIN! NO LONGER WILL THE LORD OF ASGARD REIGN SUPREME! THE DAY OF THE TROLL IS HERE! THE IMMORTALS MUST BE CRUSHED!
NO MATTER HOW MANY FALL--WE CANNOT BE STOPPED! VICTORY IS OURS!
ONWARD! ONWARD FOR GEIRRODUR! THE WORLD IS OURS! ALL MUST BE DESTROYED!
AND, AS THE SNARLING, SHOUTING SEA OF LIVING DESTRUCTION SURGES INEXORABLY TOWARDS THE CASTLE ROYAL--

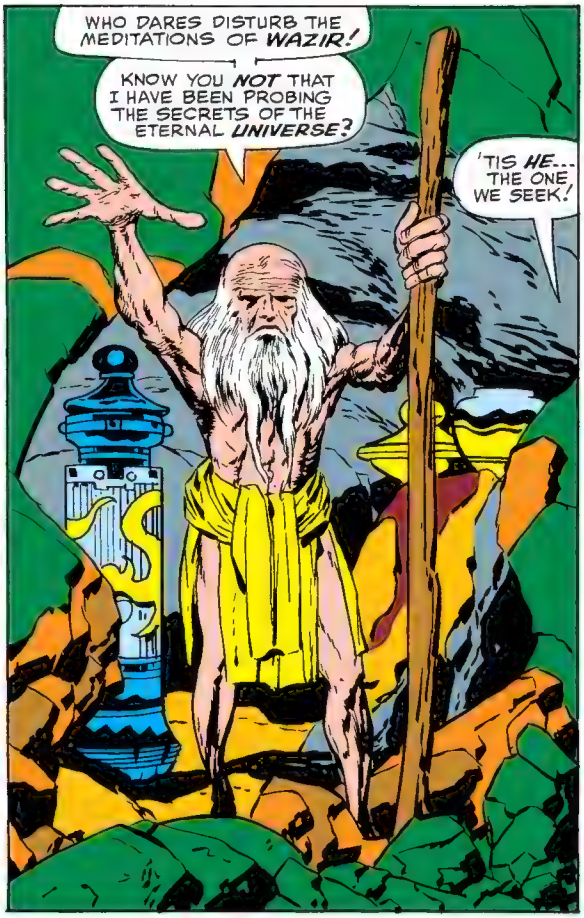
A SMALL, DESPERATELY OUTNUMBERED FORCE OF ASGARD'S FINEST--LED BY OMNIPOTENT, UNFLINCHING ODIN HIMSELF--BATTLES AS ONLY THE FABLED FLOWER OF GODHOOD CAN--!
FOR ASGARD--AND FREEDOM ETERNAL!
LET THE SUN BURN COLD--LET THE STARS GROW DIM--LET THE HEAVENS TREMBLE --ODIN FIGHTS ON!
THEY ARE BEWITCHED! THEY HAVE SLAIN A DOZEN TIMES THEIR NUMBER!
FIGHT ON! THOUGH DEATH BE OUR DESTINY, WE SHALL NOT YIELD!
BUT WE ARE STILL TOO MANY! AND WE HAVE THE WEAPONS OF ORIKAL!
WHAT IS THIS? A MYSTIC BLAST HAS UNSWORDED ME!
BUT, NO WEAPON IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE CAN HURL THE BLADE FROM ODIN'S HAND!
CAN IT BE THAT EVEN I NOW FACE A THREAT BEYOND MY VERY COMPREHENSION--BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MINE OWN MAJESTIC POWER??
NEVER HAS THE PERIL BEEN SO REAL--SO UNSPEAKABLY GRAVE!
WHERE THEN IS THE GOD OF THUNDER?? WHERE THE ENCHANTED HAMMER OF MY SON--THE MIGHTY THOR?!!
AND, BACK ON EARTH, EVEN AS ODIN'S ANGUISHED SUPPLICATION REVERBERATES THRU THE SKIES OF ASGARD--
MY FATHER NEEDS ME! THE DOMAIN IS IMPERILLED--THE CRISIS AT HAND!
BUT, THE FATEFUL SECONDS TICK MERCILESSLY BY--EACH BRINGING US CLOSER TO DEADLY DISASTER!
YOU MUST NOT DESPAIR! YOU MUST FIND A WAY--OR ELSE--ALL IS LOST!
BUT, THESE EMPTY HANDS SHALL SOON BE POWERLESS!
YEA, BEFORE THIS MOMENT PASSES, I SHALL BE THOR--NO LONGER!
AND, IF THE THUNDER GOD FAILS--
THEN WHAT SHALL BEFALL ASGARD--AND, AFTER THAT, THE UNSUSPECTING PLANET--EARTH??!
NEXT ISSUE:
TO DIE LIKE A GOD!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
"THE QUEST FOR THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!"
'TIS OGUR, THE ONE-EYED GUARDIAN OF THE CAVE OF WAZIR, THE PROPHET!
MIGHTY THOR, AND HIS GALLANT COMPANIONS.. SEARCHING FOR THE EVIL MOGUL WHO IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF HOGUN, THE GRIM.. NOW FIND THEMSELVES IN THE LAND OF HINDI, AS THEY STRAY FAR FROM ASGARD, SEEKING THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN OF MOGUL! (IF IT ALL SOUNDS TOO COMPLICATED, STAY WITH US, TRUE BELIEVER--- WE'LL TRY TO CLEAR IT UP FOR YOU---SOMEHOW.!)
WE SEEK WAZIR, THY MASTER! WE WOULDST FAIN ASK THE LOCATION OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!
STAND THEE BACK, THUNDER GOD! THY WORDS UPON DEAF EARS DO FALL! HE PREPARES TO ATTACK!
BUT, THOUGH 'TIS SAID OGUR CAN FELL A HUNDRED WARRIORS WITH BUT ONE BLOW--- NEVER HATH HE FACED OUR MIGHT BEFORE!
A STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY SUPER-SPECTACULAR
INKING: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN


DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY HIS ONE EYE... IN WHICH THE VISION IS MOST POOR!
HE DOTH SCENT LIKE THE KEENEST HUNTING HOUND... AND NAUGHT THAT MOVES CAN ESCAPE HIS NOTICE!
STAY THY WRATH, MONSTROUS ONE! WE MEAN THY MASTER NO HARM! NAUGHT BUT INFORMATION DO WE SEEK FROM WAZIR!
BUT HE IS NOT OUR ENEMY! 'TIS MOGUL WHOM WE SEEK!
'TIS TO NO AVAIL! HE HATH BEEN TRAINED TO BATTLE ALL INTRUDERS! NO WORD OF OURS WILL GIVE HIM PAUSE!
BY THE GOLDEN SPIRES! MY FEET DID STUMBLE O'ER YON ROCKY TERRAIN!
STAND WHERE THOU ART, SON OF ODIN! THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL STRIKES FOR THEE!
IN TRUTH, DASHING FANDRAL, THOU DOST PARRY AND THRUST AS THOUGH THY BLADE BE A THING ALIVE!
NONE SHALL GIVE HARM TO A FELLOW ASGARDIAN-- NOT WHILST FANDRAL IS SOUND OF ARM!
HAVE AT THEE, BRUTISH ONE! RETREAT, IF THOU WOULDST BE SPARED!
2.

BUT, INSTEAD OF FALLING BACK, THE DIM-WITTED, AWESOMELY POWERFUL OGUR RIPS THE VERY GROUND FROM BENEATH THE FEET OF THOR AND FANDRAL---
SAVE THYSELVES, BOTH! THE MACE OF HOGUN SHALL TURN HIM FROM THE ATTACK!
NAY, GRIM ONE! 'TIS WORTH THY LIFE TO OPPOSE HIM ALONE!
THOU SPEAKEST TO HOGUN! HE WOULD NO MORE TURN FROM US THAN WOULDST THEE THYSELF, GALLANT FANDRAL!
TAKE TO THY HEELS, HOGUN! WE ARE NOW SAFE!
THOU HAST STOOD THY GROUND AND STRUCK AT THE GIANT TIME AND AGAIN... BUT STILL HE ADVANCES! THOU MUST SAVE THYSELF!
NEVER! RATHER A THOUSAND DEATHS--- THAN ONE RETREAT!
HOGUN SHALL STAND FAST!
OGUR IS UPON HIM! OUR COMRADE IS GRIPPED LIKE A BEETLE TRAPPED!
THOR CRIES ENOUGH! THE TIME FOR HALF-MEASURES NOW IS PAST!
LET THE ENCHANTMENT OF MY MALLET-- THE POWER OF MY ARM-- SPEAK IN OUR STEAD!
THINE EYE IS TRUE, AS EVER!
3.

IF YOU THINK WE'D PRESUME TO SULLY A WORK OF ART SUCH AS THIS WITH SOUND EFFECTS, FORGET IT!
--SENSITIVE STAN.

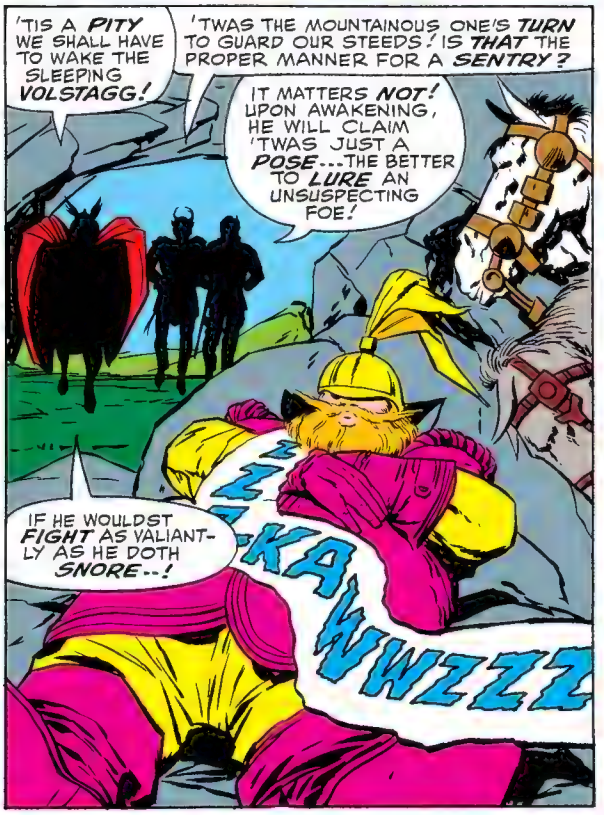

WHO DARES DISTURB THE MEDITATIONS OF WAZIR!
KNOW YOU NOT THAT I HAVE BEEN PROBING THE SECRETS OF THE ETERNAL UNIVERSE?
'TIS HE... THE ONE WE SEEK!

ONLY THE MIGHTIEST OF THE MIGHTIEST COULD HAVE FELLED THE INVINCIBLE OGUR!
HOW ART THOU CALLED? FROM WHENCE HAST THOU COME?
SPEAK THEN! FOR TO ANCIENT WAZIR, EACH FADING MINUTE IS LIKE UNTO A PRECIOUS JEWEL!

WE COME FROM FABLED ASGARD, IN THE SERVICE OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN!
WE HAVE NAUGHT BUT ONE UNCHANGING GOAL---WE SEEK THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!
FOR, 'TIS THERE WE SHALL FIND MOGUL---WHOM I AM PLEDGED TO SLAY!
LET THY MOUTHING BE TRUE, ANCIENT ONE!

NONE WHO HAVE SOUGHT THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN-- SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWN---HAVE LIVED TO RETURN FROM SUCH A QUEST!
MY ARM DOTH TINGLE NOW!
BUT, IF SUCH BE THY DESIRE---CLUTCH THOU THIS STAFF!
WHEN THINE ARMS BEGIN TO TINGLE---THE KNOWLEDGE OF WAZIR SHALL HAVE FLOWN THROUGH YON PIECE OF WOOD --AND IT SHALL BE THINE!
NEXT, SHALL COME A MIST! WHEN IT DOTH CLEAR, THOU SHALT BE ALONE--- WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HATH BEEN GAINED!

THE PROPHET'S WORDS ARE TRUE!
THE KNOWLEDGE WE CRAVE HATH ENTERED OUR BRAINS!
THE MISTS DO CLEAR--- AND I SEE HIM NOT!
THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN IS COMPOSED OF PUREST CRYSTAL AND RISES FROM WITHIN THE CRATER OF THE DREADED JINNI SLAVE OF MOGUL!
THEN LET US AWAY! MY LIMBS DO HUNGER FOR THE SWEET TASTE OF BATTLE!


'TIS A PITY WE SHALL HAVE TO WAKE THE SLEEPING VOLSTAGG!
'TWAS THE MOUNTAINOUS ONE'S TURN TO GUARD OUR STEEDS! IS THAT THE PROPER MANNER FOR A SENTRY?
IT MATTERS NOT! UPON AWAKENING, HE WILL CLAIM 'TWAS JUST A POSE---THE BETTER TO LURE AN UNSUSPECTING FOE!
IF HE WOULDST FIGHT AS VALIANTLY AS HE DOTH SNORE--!
KA WWZZ

VOLSTAGG! CAN IT BE THAT THOU ART SLUMBERING?
EH? UMMMH--- FIE UPON IT! 'TWAS JUST A POSE--- BETTER TO LURE---AN--UNSUS-- SUS--- ZZZZZZZZZ
NEXT "THOR FINDS THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!"

THE MIGHTY
THOR
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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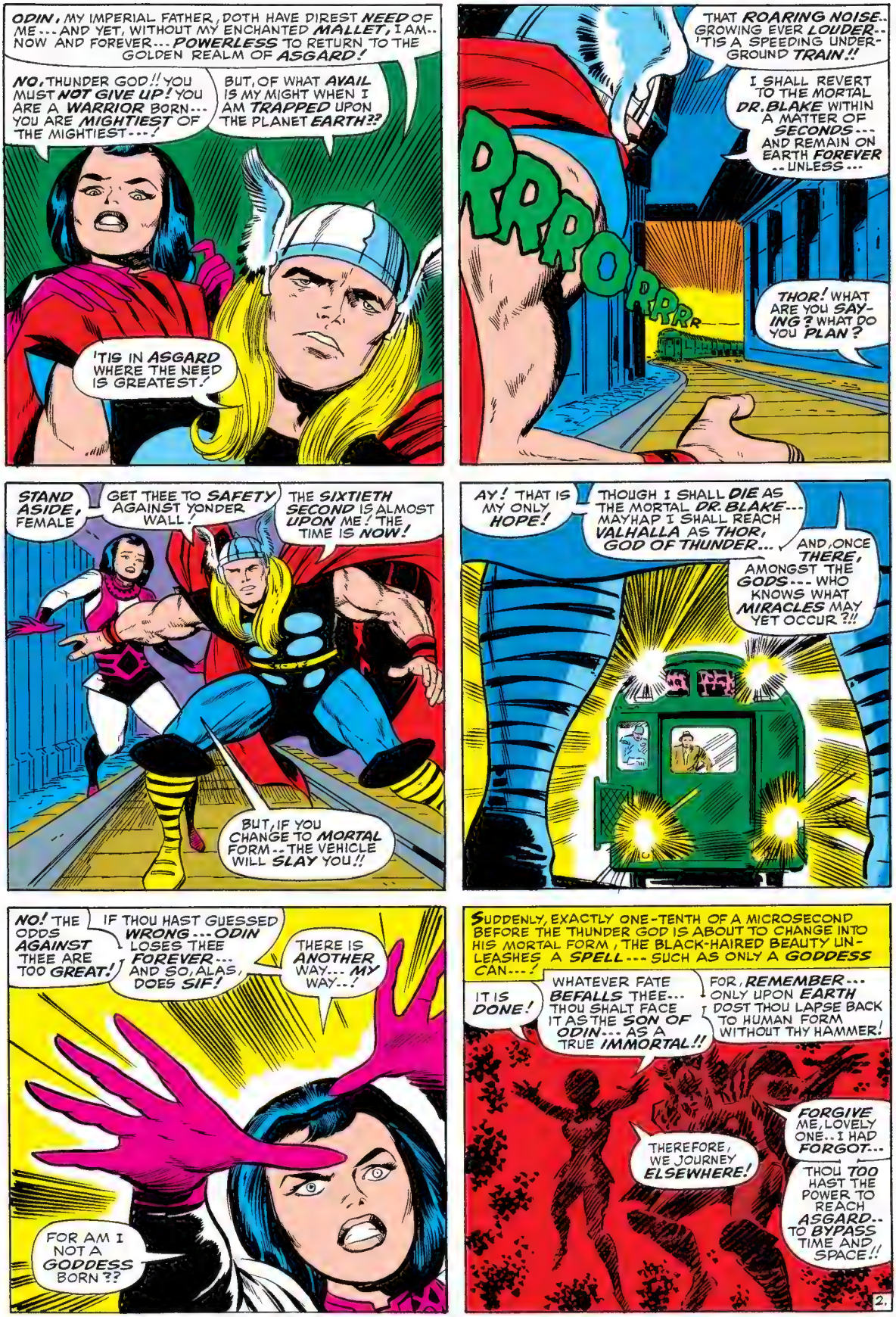
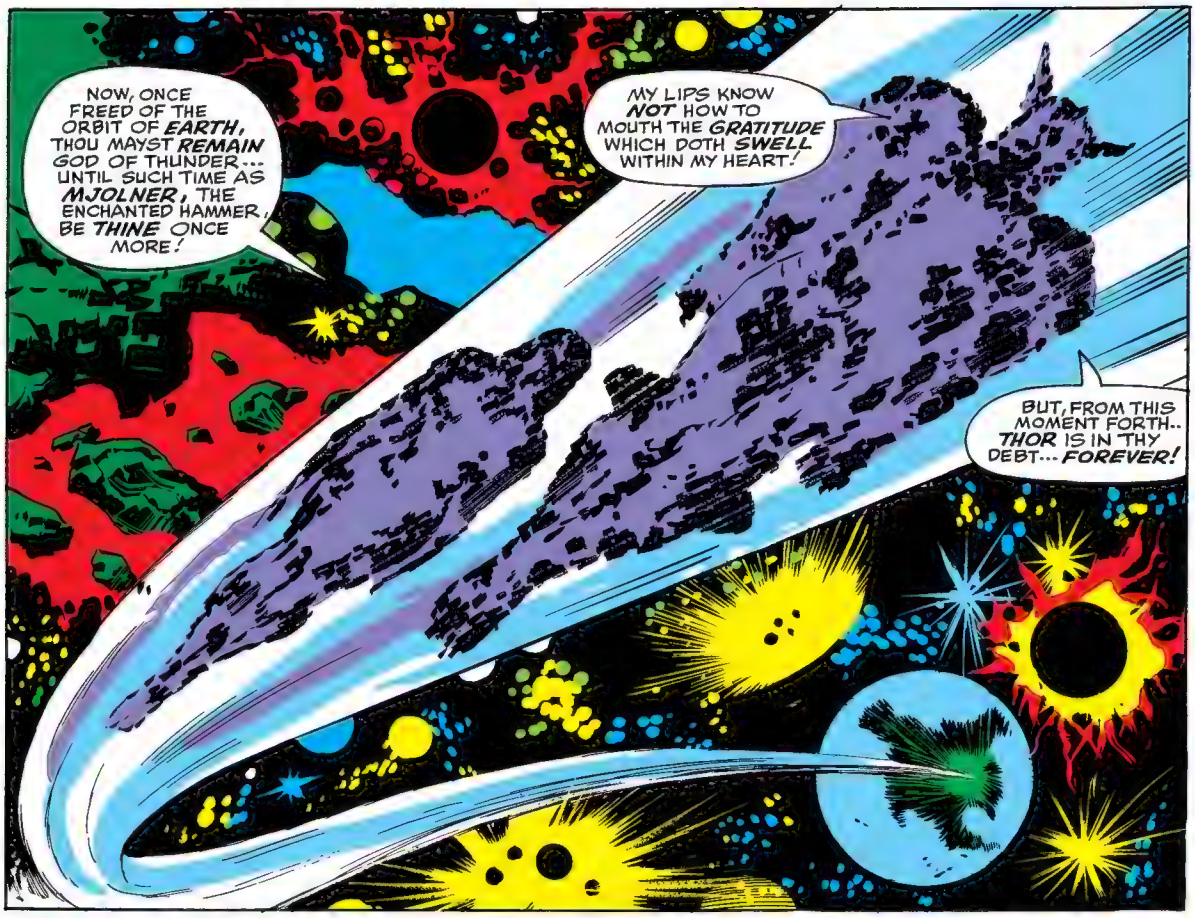
"TO DIE LIKE A GOD!"

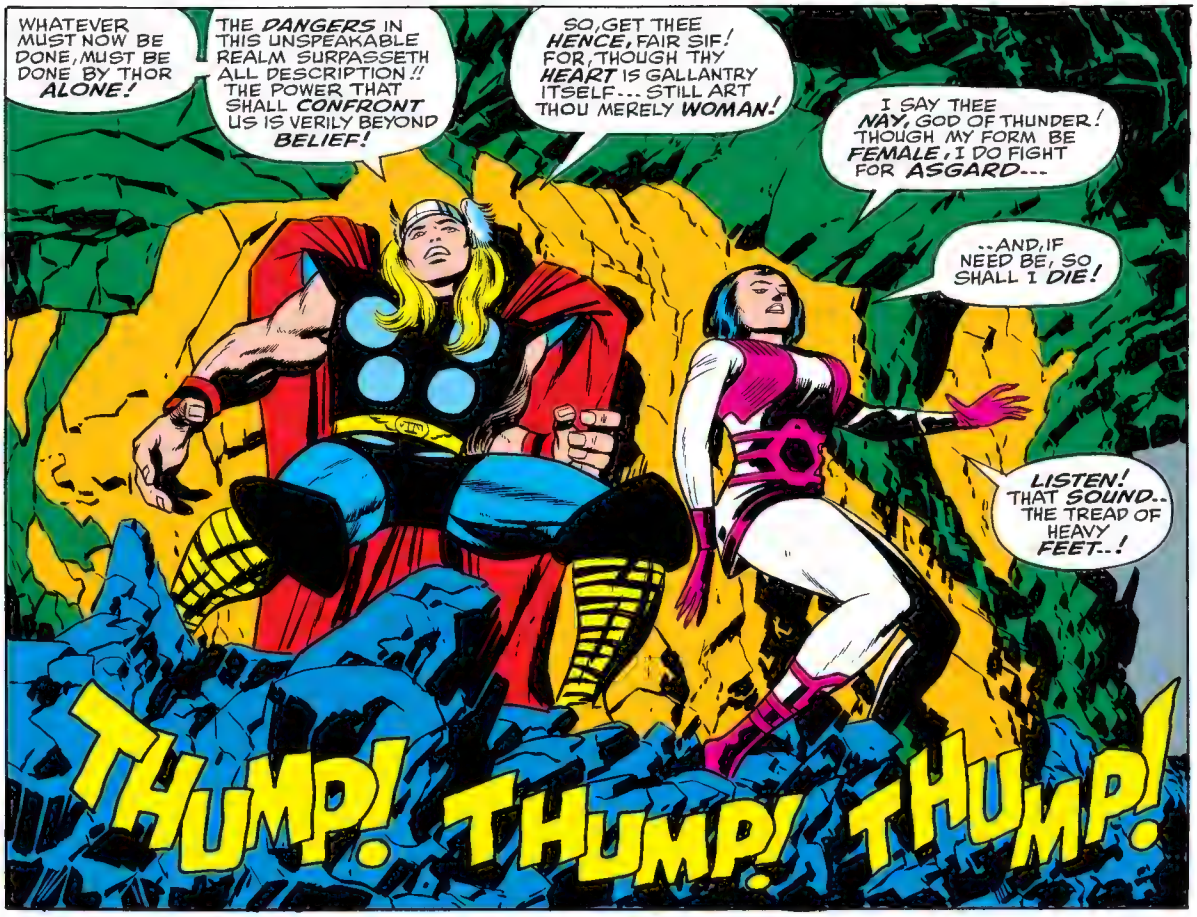
THE MIGHTY THOR!
"To DIE Like A GOD!"
THE HAMMER OF THOR HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE NOW-DEPARTED TROLLS! LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS REMAIN BEFORE THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL BE TRANSFORMED BACK TO THE MORTAL DON BLAKE... UNLESS...
DO NOT DESPAIR, MIGHTY ONE! WE SHALL YET PREVAIL! KNOW YOU THAT SIF WILL NEVER LEAVE THY SIDE!
NOW... WITH ASGARD BESIEGED BY THE DEADLIEST OF FOES... WITH MY POWER NEEDED MOST... I AM BEREFT OF MY HAMMER... REDUCED TO IMPENDING HELPLESSNESS!
WHATEVER ELSE YOU DO, WE ASK YOU TO PROMISE THAT YOU'LL READ THIS STIRRING SAGA SLOWLY!
BY THE GOLDEN GATES OF ASGARD, IT'S JUST TOO GOOD TO FINISH QUICKLY!
A PEERLESS, PICTORIAL PAGEANT, PAINSTAKINGLY PRODUCED WITH PERFECTLY PARDONABLE PRIDE, BY:
STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY
INKED WITH THE PROWESS OF VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED WITH THE PEN-POINTS OF SAM ROSEN


ODIN, MY IMPERIAL FATHER, DOTH HAVE DIREST NEED OF ME--- AND YET, WITHOUT MY ENCHANTED MALLET, I AM-- NOW AND FOREVER--- POWERLESS TO RETURN TO THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD!
NO, THUNDER GOD!! YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP! YOU ARE A WARRIOR BORN--- YOU ARE MIGHTIEST OF THE MIGHTIEST---!
BUT, OF WHAT AVAIL IS MY MIGHT WHEN I AM TRAPPED UPON THE PLANET EARTH??
'TIS IN ASGARD WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST!
THAT ROARING NOISE.. GROWING EVER LOUDER-- 'TIS A SPEEDING UNDER-GROUND TRAIN!!
I SHALL REVERT TO THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS--- AND REMAIN ON EARTH FOREVER -- UNLESS---
RRROARRRR
THOR! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHAT DO YOU PLAN?
STAND ASIDE, FEMALE
GET THEE TO SAFETY AGAINST YONDER WALL!
THE SIXTIETH SECOND IS ALMOST UPON ME! THE TIME IS NOW!
BUT, IF YOU CHANGE TO MORTAL FORM -- THE VEHICLE WILL SLAY YOU!!
AY! THAT IS MY ONLY HOPE!
THOUGH I SHALL DIE AS THE MORTAL DR. BLAKE--- MAYHAP I SHALL REACH VALHALLA AS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER...
AND, ONCE THERE, AMONGST THE GODS--- WHO KNOWS WHAT MIRACLES MAY YET OCCUR ?!!
NO! THE ODDS AGAINST THEE ARE TOO GREAT!
IF THOU HAST GUESSED WRONG--- ODIN LOSES THEE FOREVER--- AND SO, ALAS, DOES SIF!
THERE IS ANOTHER WAY--- MY WAY--!
FOR AM I NOT A GODDESS BORN ??
SUDDENLY, EXACTLY ONE-TENTH OF A MICROSECOND BEFORE THE THUNDER GOD IS ABOUT TO CHANGE INTO HIS MORTAL FORM, THE BLACK-HAIRED BEAUTY UNLEASHES A SPELL--- SUCH AS ONLY A GODDESS CAN---!
IT IS DONE!
WHATEVER FATE BEFALLS THEE--- THOU SHALT FACE IT AS THE SON OF ODIN--- AS A TRUE IMMORTAL!!
FOR, REMEMBER--- ONLY UPON EARTH DOST THOU LAPSE BACK TO HUMAN FORM WITHOUT THY HAMMER!
THEREFORE, WE JOURNEY ELSEWHERE!
FORGIVE ME, LOVELY ONE.. I HAD FORGOT--
THOU TOO HAST THE POWER TO REACH ASGARD-- TO BYPASS TIME AND SPACE!!
2.


NOW, ONCE FREED OF THE ORBIT OF EARTH, THOU MAYST REMAIN GOD OF THUNDER... UNTIL SUCH TIME AS MJOLNER, THE ENCHANTED HAMMER, BE THINE ONCE MORE!
MY LIPS KNOW NOT HOW TO MOUTH THE GRATITUDE WHICH DOTH SWELL WITHIN MY HEART!
BUT, FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH.. THOR IS IN THY DEBT... FOREVER!

THOUGH WE HAVE REACHED THE GOLDEN REALM, WE MUST NOT PAUSE!
WE MUST CONTINUE DOWNWARD... UNTIL OUR GOAL BE REACHED!
AY.! 'TIS ONLY BELOW THAT WE SHALL FIND THE ONES WE SEEK..!
...THE THRICE-ACCURSED TROLLS WHO THREATEN TO WREST ASGARD ITSELF FROM THY FATHER'S RULE!

NEVER HAVE ASGARDIANS VENTURED SO DEEP!!
THE VERY AIR WE BREATHE... THE VERY ATOMS ABOUT US ARE TINGED WITH EVIL INCARNATE!
I HAVE BROUGHT THEE TO WHERE THY HAMMER HATH BEEN TAKEN! WE ARE IN THE DREADED HEART OF..THE TROLL DOMAIN!


WHATEVER MUST NOW BE DONE, MUST BE DONE BY THOR ALONE!
THE DANGERS IN THIS UNSPEAKABLE REALM SURPASSETH ALL DESCRIPTION!! THE POWER THAT SHALL CONFRONT US IS VERILY BEYOND BELIEF!
SO, GET THEE HENCE, FAIR SIF! FOR, THOUGH THY HEART IS GALLANTRY ITSELF--- STILL ART THOU MERELY WOMAN!
I SAY THEE NAY, GOD OF THUNDER! THOUGH MY FORM BE FEMALE, I DO FIGHT FOR ASGARD---
--AND, IF NEED BE, SO SHALL I DIE!
LISTEN! THAT SOUND-- THE TREAD OF HEAVY FEET--!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

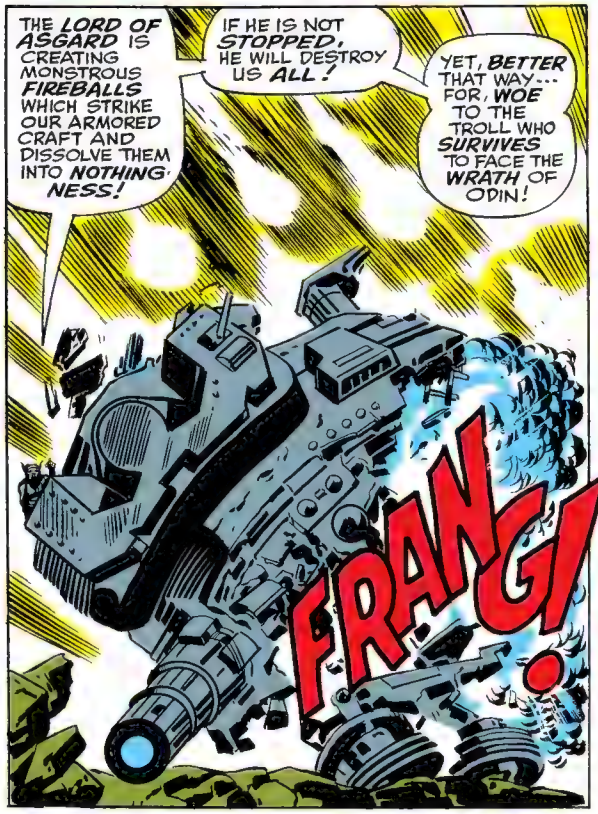
'TIS A COMPANY OF TROLL ARMORERS--- THEY WHO FORGE THE MIGHTIEST WEAPONS OF ALL---
THEY BRING STRANGE, MOLTEN ELEMENTS DEEP WITHIN THEIR CATACOMBS!
IF IT IS THY DESIRE TO FOLLOW, THEN SIF SHALL MOVE WITH THE SILENCE OF THE BREEZE AT DAWNING!

THUS, SECONDS LATER---
WEAPONS SUCH AS MINE EYES HAVE NE'ER BEHELD!
WHOSE WAS THE BRAIN THAT DID CONCEIVE SUCH AWESOME, ALIEN INSTRUMENTS OF DOOM!
THOR!! LOOK YOU YONDER!! DARE I BELIEVE THAT WHICH MY EYES REVEAL--?!!

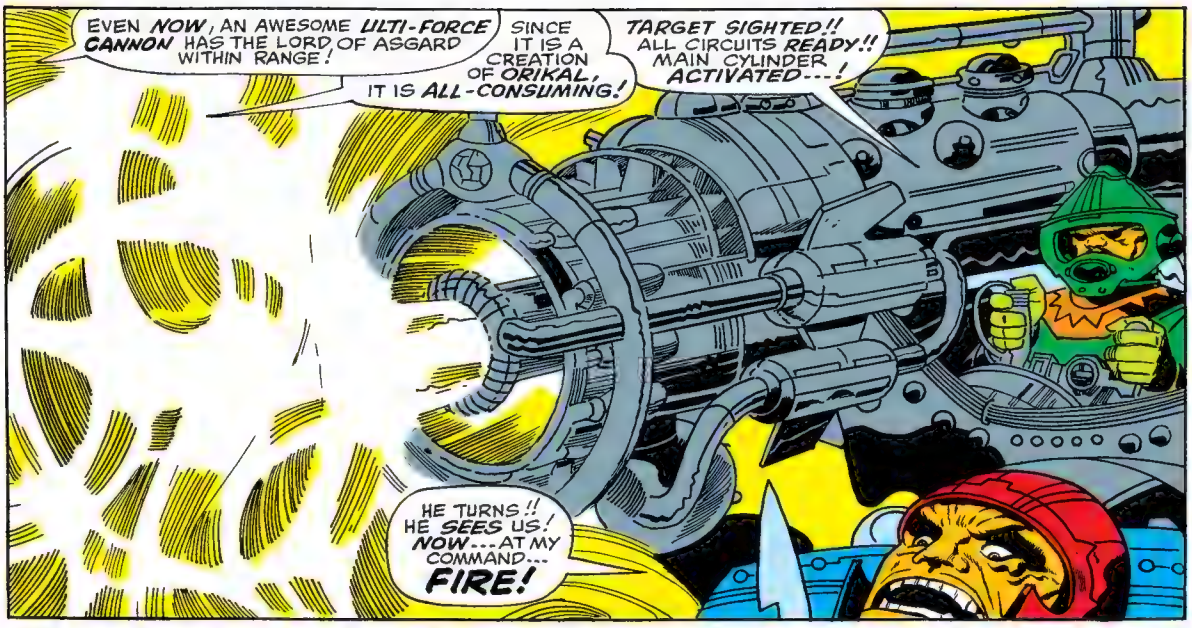
BUT, EVEN AS THE STUNNING SIF RECOILS IN SHOCK, ANOTHER GRIM TABLEAU TRANSPIRES WITHIN THE VERY WALLS OF IMPERIAL ASGARD ITSELF---
ONWARD!! ONWARD!! DEATH TO ASGARD!! NOTHING CAN STOP THE TROLL INVASION!
IN THE NAME OF KING GEIRRODUR---ODIN MUST FALL!! ASGARD MUST BE DESTROYED!
EVEN THE ETERNAL REALM WILL NOT SURVIVE THE WEAPONS OF ORIKAL!
BU-HROOM!
SHRUSHH!
KRACK!
WE CANNOT STEM THE TIDE OF INVASION! THEY STOP FOR NOTHING!
FORWARD!! ASGARD IS TOPPLING BENEATH OUR ATTACK! SHOW THEM NO MERCY! GIVE NO QUARTER!!
EVERY SECOND IS VITAL!! THE VICTORY MUST BE WON BEFORE THE GOD OF THUNDER CAN APPEAR!!
IT IS TOO LATE! EVEN HIS HAMMER CANNOT SAVE ASGARD!
NO IMMORTAL SPELL--- NO ENCHANTED MALLET--- NOTHING CAN DEFY THE WEAPONS OF ORIKAL---
WEAPONS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE---WEAPONS WHICH OBEY NO NATURAL LAWS OF SCIENCE OR SORCERY!
STAPPT!
KLAKK!
AND, AS THE BATTLE RAGES---A BATTLE MORE CATACLYSMIC THAN ANY EVER KNOWN---EVEN OMNIPOTENT ODIN MUST FINALLY PAUSE TO REST HIS AGED LIMBS--!
LET THINE EYELIDS CLOSE, MOST NOBLE SIRE! WE SHALL GIVE OUR LIVES THAT THOU MAY SLEEP!
NAY, FAITHFUL ONE! 'TIS A TIME FOR PLANNING--- FOR COURAGE---AND FOR HIGH RESOLVE!
WARRIORS--- TO MY SIDE!
WE DO NOT FIGHT THE TROLLS ALONE! SOME MYSTIC POWER DOTH FURNISH THEM AID!
IN WEAPONRY, WE BE NOT THEIR EQUALS---NOW, ONLY THE POWER OF ODIN---ONLY THE MIGHT OF THOR, MAY SAVE THE DAY!
BUT, WITH THE FRUIT OF ASGARD ASSEMBLED, THE THUNDER GOD DOTH NOT APPEAR!!
TRULY THE HEART OF ODIN IS SORELY TROUBLED!
5.

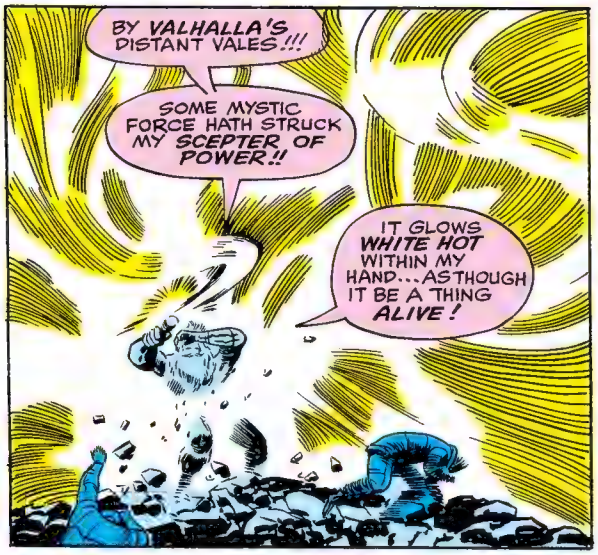
NOW, LET US HAVE DONE WITH RESTING---LET THERE BE AN END TO TALK!
THE REALM ETERNAL HATH BEEN INVADED!! THE COVENANT OF AGES HATH BEEN BREACHED! THE TIME IS COME TO ACT!
NO MERE WEAPONS SHALL THE ALL-FATHER EMPLOY!! ONLY THE POWER WHICH BE MINE ALONE.. BY RIGHT DIVINE!

ATTEND MY WORDS, YE WHO HAVE DARED OPPOSE ME!
ABANDON THINE UNHOLY QUEST... OR THOU SHALT FEEL THE AWESOME POWER OF ODIN-- FOR TIME WITHOUT END!
YEA, I AM THE WILL-- AND THE WAY---AND THE WONDER!!


THE LORD OF ASGARD IS CREATING MONSTROUS FIREBALLS WHICH STRIKE OUR ARMORED CRAFT AND DISSOLVE THEM INTO NOTHING-NESS!
IF HE IS NOT STOPPED, HE WILL DESTROY US ALL!
YET, BETTER THAT WAY--- FOR, WOE TO THE TROLL WHO SURVIVES TO FACE THE WRATH OF ODIN!
FRANG!

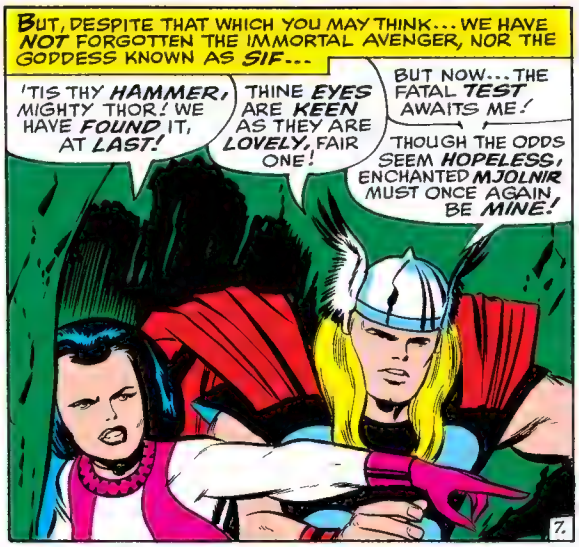
WHERE IS KING GEIRRODUR?? WHERE IS THE MIGHTY ULIK?? CAN NOTHING SAVE US FROM THE UNTHINKABLE ATTACK OF ODIN??
KEEP YOUR COURAGE, SNIVELLING FOOL! HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?? DO WE NOT STILL HAVE ORIKAL TO COMMAND??
HIS POWERS ARE THOSE OF AN ALIEN UNIVERSE! NOT EVEN ODIN CAN STAND AGAINST THEM!!


EVEN NOW, AN AWESOME ULTI-FORCE CANNON HAS THE LORD OF ASGARD WITHIN RANGE!
SINCE IT IS A CREATION OF ORIKAL, IT IS ALL-CONSUMING!
TARGET SIGHTED!! ALL CIRCUITS READY!! MAIN CYLINDER ACTIVATED---!
HE TURNS!! HE SEES US! NOW---AT MY COMMAND--- FIRE!


BY VALHALLA'S DISTANT VALES!!!
SOME MYSTIC FORCE HATH STRUCK MY SCEPTER OF POWER!!
IT GLOWS WHITE HOT WITHIN MY HAND...AS THOUGH IT BE A THING ALIVE!

THE SHOCK HATH PASSED--- THE SCEPTER COOLED... BUT THE HARM IS DONE!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A THOUSAND AGES... IT HATH BEEN RENDERED USELESS!
IT HATH VERILY BEEN DRAINED OF ASGARDIAN ENERGY!!

BUT, WHAT CARES ODIN FOR SUCH TRINKETS!!
NO FORCE SHALL STIFLE THE SPIRIT WITHIN---NO FOE SHALL STILL MINE OMNIPOTENT HEART!!
ONWARD, ASGARDIANS!
WHERE ODIN LEADS, LET HONOR NOW FOLLOW!!


BUT, DESPITE THAT WHICH YOU MAY THINK... WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE IMMORTAL AVENGER, NOR THE GODDESS KNOWN AS SIF---
'TIS THY HAMMER, MIGHTY THOR! WE HAVE FOUND IT, AT LAST!
THINE EYES ARE KEEN AS THEY ARE LOVELY, FAIR ONE!
BUT NOW...THE FATAL TEST AWAITS ME!
THOUGH THE ODDS SEEM HOPELESS, ENCHANTED MJOLNIR MUST ONCE AGAIN BE MINE!

BEHOLD, BESTIAL ULIK--- THE UNMATCHABLE POWER OF ORIKAL HAS DUPLICATED THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER!
WITH SUCH A WEAPON--NOT EVEN ODIN'S MIGHT CAN STAND AGAINST US!
ODIN MUST WAIT!! THE FIRST TO FEEL YON MALLET'S CRUSHING BLOW WILL BE THOR!
HE ESCAPED ME IN THE PAST-- BUT, WITH A WEAPON SUCH AS THIS IN ULIK'S HAND, HE IS DOOMED!
RRRRRRRRRRRR

STAND ASIDE, GEIRRODUR!!
I GO TO FIND THE SON OF ODIN--- TO SLAY ME A THUNDER GOD!
BUT HE PROVED TO BE YOUR MASTER BEFORE!! WHAT IF HE DEFEATS YOU AGAIN!?
STILL YOUR TONGUE, ERE I FORGET YOU ARE KING!
POSSESSING POWER SUCH AS THIS, I CAN BE DEFEATED BY NONE!! ULIK IS SUPREME!

SUPREME? AY! BUT, IN VILLAINY ALONE!
TO ME, MY FAITHFUL MALLET! THOU MUST DO MY BIDDING ONCE AGAIN!
THOR!!
STILL YOU MUST DIE--- FOR ULIK POSSESSES THE OTHER HAMMER!

THEN, HAVE AT THEE, VILLAIN!!
THOR ACCEPTS THY CRAVEN CHALLENGE!
IN THE HALLOWED NAME OF ASGARD.. I DO STRIKE!
MAY THY ARM BE STEADY... AND THY AIM BE TRUE!!
BY THE BASTIONS OF THE ETERNAL REALM... DEFEND THYSELF!!
FACE-TO-FACE AT LAST--- WITH NONE TO COME BETWEEN!! AND, IN MY HAND--- A HAMMER, TOO!
THE THUNDER GOD IS DOOMED!!
FTHONNNG!
SPOK!
BTANNG!
9

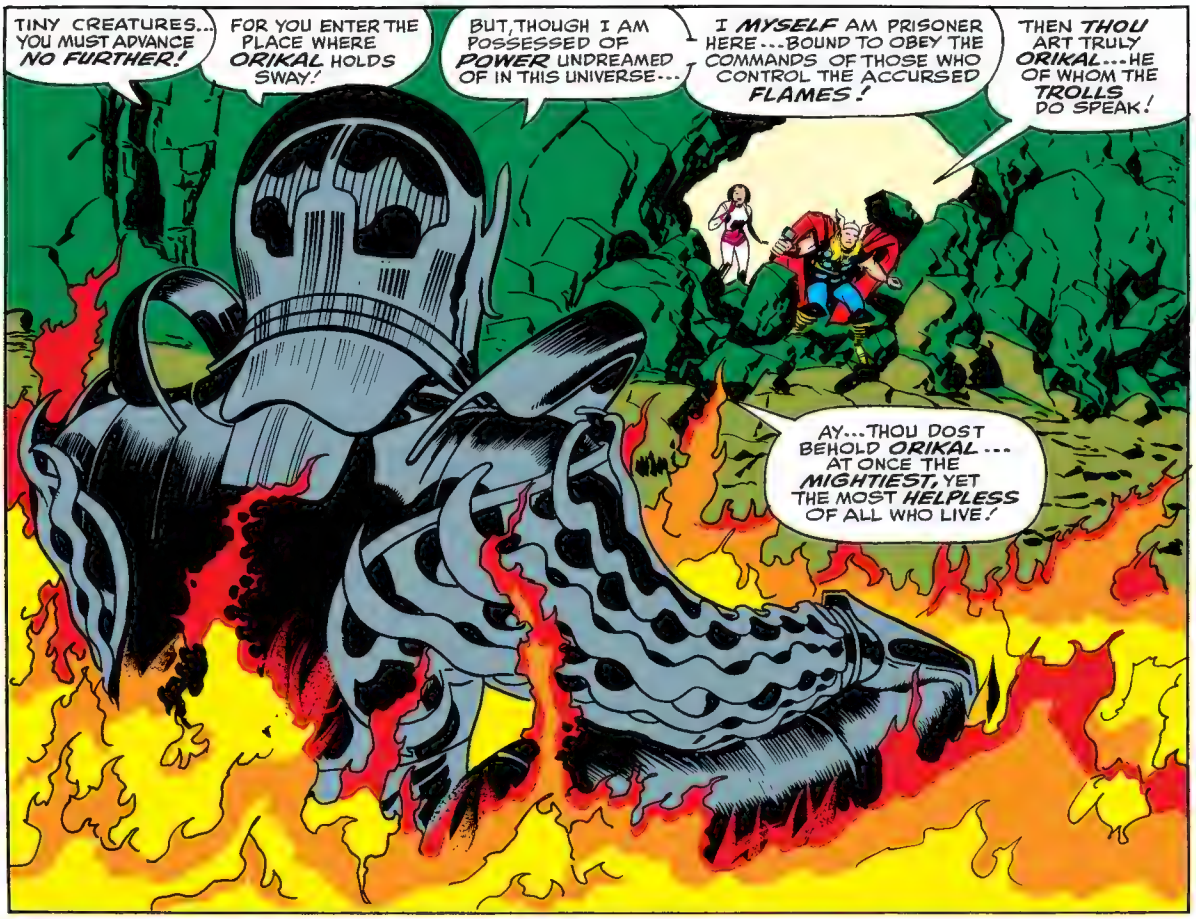
THE FEMALE!! WHILE ULIK SLAYS THE SON OF ODIN---SHE IS OURS!!
WHAT?!! YOU THINK TO CONQUER THE GODDESS SIF THUS EASILY?
ATTACK, THEN---ONE OR ALL---AND LIVE TO REGRET IT--- ETERNALLY!!
FIRST, I AM IN NEED OF WEAPON IN HAND---
AND, EVEN SO CLUMSY A SWORD AS THINE WILL PROVE MOST POTENT WHEN WIELDED BY A HIGH-BORN ASGARDIAN!
AWAY WITH THEE, TROLL! THOU ART NO LONGER OF USE TO ME!
IN YON BOTTOMLESS PIT SHALT THOU FIND FINAL REST!
NOW BACK, MINIONS OF THE DARK AND FETID DEPTHS!!
BACK TO THE STYGIAN SHADOW-WORLD FROM WHENCE THOU COMEST!
KRLAK!
HOW FAREST THOU, MIGHTY THOR??
MY HAMMER STILL POUNDS, FAIR SIF! AND THEE??
I PERSEVERE, MY LORD---FOR MY FOES BE NOT SO AWESOME AS THINE!
BEHOLD, GEIRRODUR!! THE THUNDER GOD DOTH HOLD ULIK AT BAY---WHILST THE FEMALE FIGHTS WITH THE FURY OF A VALKYRIE!
I MUST USE THE MENTI-HORN! THE TIME IS COME TO SUMMON ORIKAL!
BE SILENT, ALL!
CLICK!
HEAR ME, STRANGER FROM SPACE!! GEIRRODUR COMMANDS!!
YOU MUST STRIKE--- AGAINST THE GOD OF THUNDER!
DESTROY HIM-- ELSE YOU REMAIN MY PRISONER HERE---TILL ETERNITY'S END!

NO SOONER HAS THE GUTTARAL COMMAND ESCAPED GEIRRODUR'S LIPS, THAN A MYSTIC VIBRATION SEEMS TO FILL THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN, LIFTING THE TWO LONE ASGARDIANS ABOVE THE HEADS OF THEIR SAVAGE FOES--!
WE ARE IN THE GRIP OF SOME STRANGE ENCHANTMENT!!
'TIS THE WORKINGS OF A POWER BEYOND ANY TROLL!!
NOW HOVER WE HERE-- UNABLE TO DE-SCEND!
ZZZZZZZZZZ

THE FORCE THAT HOLDS US HERE MAKES US HELP-LESS TARGETS FOR THE ENEMY'S JAVELINS!!
FTOK!
TO MY SIDE, VALIANT ONE! NO HARM SHALL COME TO THEE WHILE THOR DOTH LIVE!
THAK!

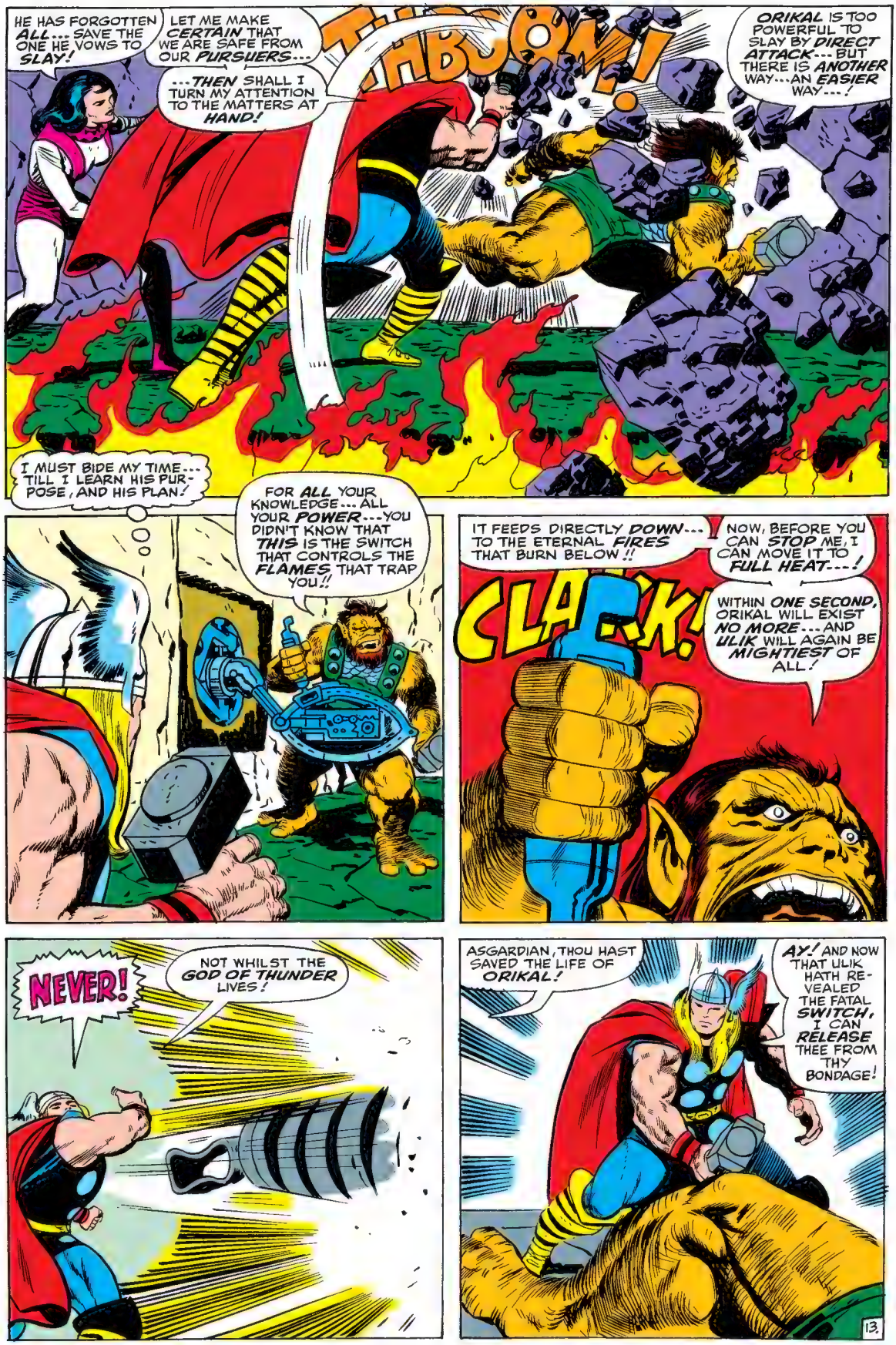
GODDESS... SHIELD THY FACE!!
BY THE THOUSAND THREATS OF RAGNAROK--
WE SHALL TAKE SHELTER BEYOND THE WALL--- FOR YON WALL SHALL EXIST NO MORE---!!

THOR HAST SPOKEN!
BUH-ROOM!

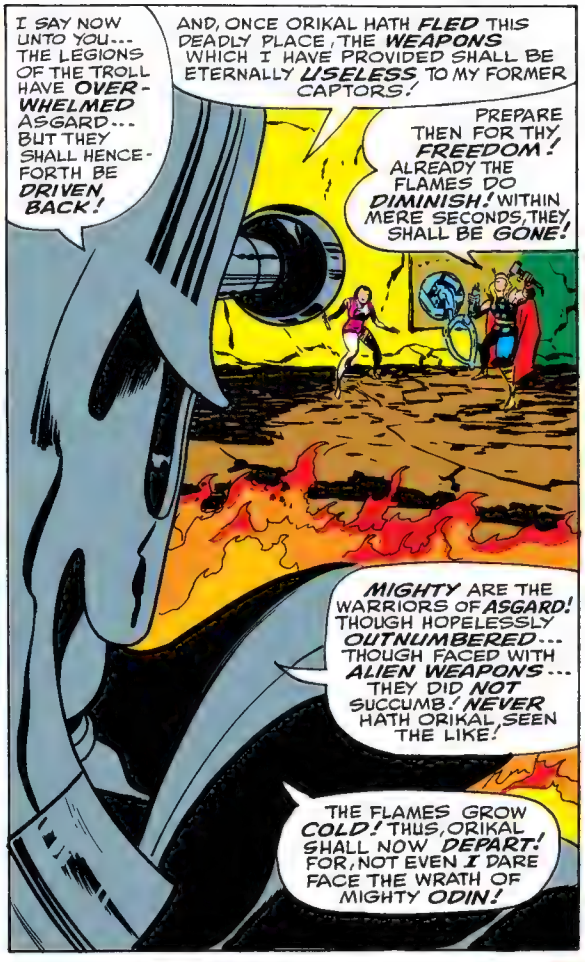

TINY CREATURES... YOU MUST ADVANCE NO FURTHER!
FOR YOU ENTER THE PLACE WHERE ORIKAL HOLDS SWAY!
BUT, THOUGH I AM POSSESSED OF POWER UNDREAMED OF IN THIS UNIVERSE...
I MYSELF AM PRISONER HERE...BOUND TO OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THOSE WHO CONTROL THE ACCURSED FLAMES!
THEN THOU ART TRULY ORIKAL...HE OF WHOM THE TROLLS DO SPEAK!
AY...THOU DOST BEHOLD ORIKAL... AT ONCE THE MIGHTIEST, YET THE MOST HELPLESS OF ALL WHO LIVE!

SO LONG AS THE WRETCHED FLAMES SURROUND ME, I AM BUT SLAVE TO HIM CALLED GEIRRODUR!
THOUGH I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THY PETTY STRUGGLE, I MUST DO HIS BIDDING IN HOPE OF GAINING MY FREEDOM!
NAY!! THERE IS ANOTHER COURSE!! ATTEND THOU THE WORDS OF THOR..!
THUNDER GOD!! CAN THOSE BE FOOTFALLS BEHIND US..?
SO! I HAVE FOUND YOU..AT LAST!!

HE LUMBERS TOWARDS US AS THOUGH THE MADNESS BE UPON HIM!
BUT HE SEEMS TO SEE US NOT! 'TIS ORIKAL UPON WHOM HE TURNS HIS RAGE-FILLED EYES!
YOU'RE THE ONE! YOU STOLE THE GLORY AWAY FROM ME! I AM MIGHTIEST OF ALL... NOW GEIRRODUR COUNTS ON YOU FOR VICTORY!
BUT, HE'LL COUNT ON YOU NO LONGER!! NOW, BY THE HAND OF ULIK...ORIKAL DIES!


HE HAS FORGOTTEN ALL... SAVE THE ONE HE VOWS TO SLAY!
LET ME MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE ARE SAFE FROM OUR PURSUERS...
...THEN SHALL I TURN MY ATTENTION TO THE MATTERS AT HAND!
THBOOM!
ORIKAL IS TOO POWERFUL TO SLAY BY DIRECT ATTACK... BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY...AN EASIER WAY...!
I MUST BIDE MY TIME... TILL I LEARN HIS PURPOSE, AND HIS PLAN!
FOR ALL YOUR KNOWLEDGE... ALL YOUR POWER... YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS IS THE SWITCH THAT CONTROLS THE FLAMES THAT TRAP YOU!!
IT FEEDS DIRECTLY DOWN... TO THE ETERNAL FIRES THAT BURN BELOW!!
NOW, BEFORE YOU CAN STOP ME, I CAN MOVE IT TO FULL HEAT...!
CLACK!
WITHIN ONE SECOND, ORIKAL WILL EXIST NO MORE... AND ULIK WILL AGAIN BE MIGHTIEST OF ALL!
NEVER!
NOT WHILST THE GOD OF THUNDER LIVES!
ASGARDIAN, THOU HAST SAVED THE LIFE OF ORIKAL!
AY! AND NOW THAT ULIK HATH REVEALED THE FATAL SWITCH, I CAN RELEASE THEE FROM THY BONDAGE!

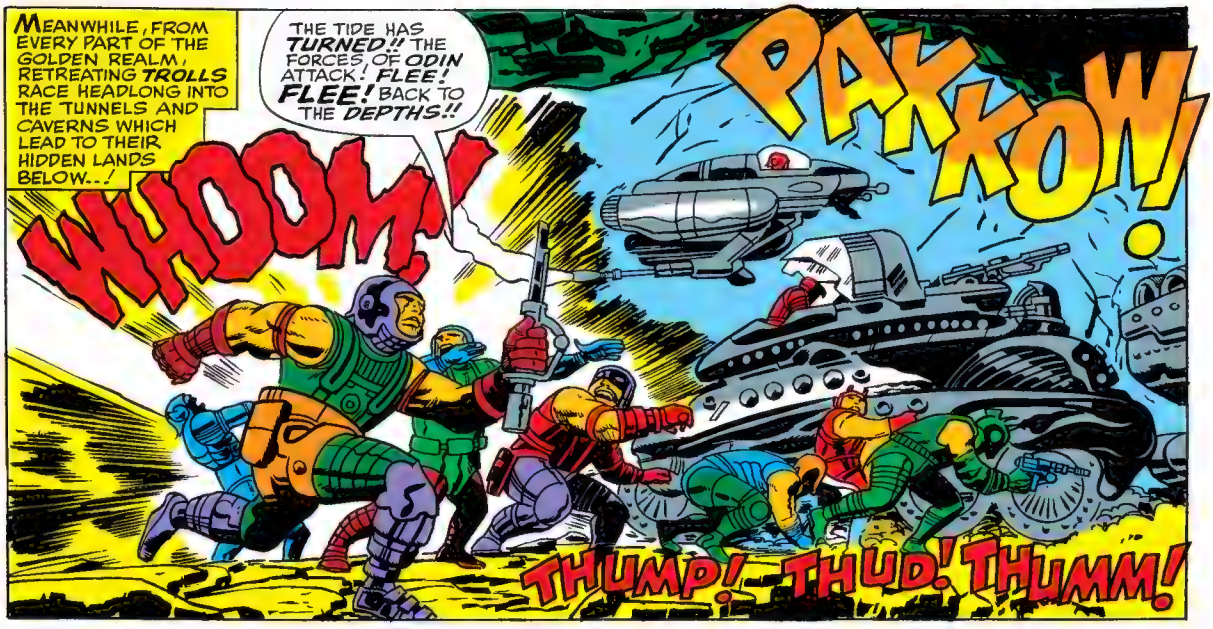
BUT FIRST, THOU MUST SWEAR TO RETURN TO THINE OWN UNIVERSE...AT THE VERY INSTANT OF THY LIBERATION!
A WORD SUCH AS "SWEAR" IS WITHOUT MEANING TO ORIKAL!
WE MUST MAKE HASTE! THE ACCURSED TROLLS WILL SOON BE UPON US!
HASTEN NOT! I DO POSSESS THE INFINITE EYE, WHICH SEES ALL THAT SHALL OCCUR!


I SAY NOW UNTO YOU--- THE LEGIONS OF THE TROLL HAVE OVER-WHELMED ASGARD--- BUT THEY SHALL HENCE-FORTH BE DRIVEN BACK!
AND, ONCE ORIKAL HATH FLED THIS DEADLY PLACE, THE WEAPONS WHICH I HAVE PROVIDED SHALL BE ETERNALLY USELESS TO MY FORMER CAPTORS!
PREPARE THEN FOR THY FREEDOM! ALREADY THE FLAMES DO DIMINISH! WITHIN MERE SECONDS, THEY SHALL BE GONE!
MIGHTY ARE THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD! THOUGH HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED--- THOUGH FACED WITH ALIEN WEAPONS--- THEY DID NOT SUCCUMB! NEVER HATH ORIKAL SEEN THE LIKE!
THE FLAMES GROW COLD! THUS, ORIKAL SHALL NOW DEPART! FOR, NOT EVEN I DARE FACE THE WRATH OF MIGHTY ODIN!

BEHOLD!! WHAT WAS ONCE A BEING HATH TURNED TO AN AURA OF SHIMMERING, GLOWING ENERGY!
EVEN NOW, NAUGHT REMAINS OF HIM WHO HAD TOWERED SO AWESOMELY ABOVE US!
BUT, WHAT IF HE CONTINUES TO AID THE TROLLS? WHAT IF HE MERE-LY TRICKED US INTO SAVING HIM FROM ULIK??

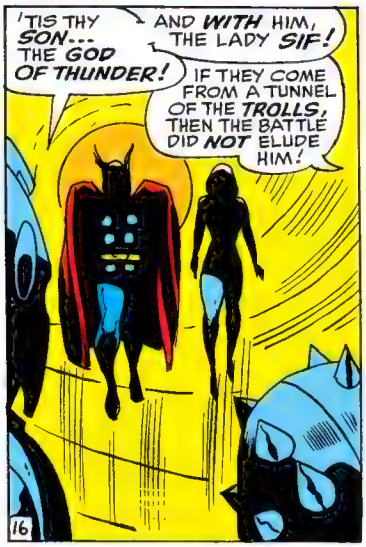
THERE IS YOUR ANSWER!!
HE HATH ALREADY FLED THIS HALLOWED UNIVERSE! METHINKS WE SHALL NEVER SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN!
BUT LOOK! THE TROLLS HAVE REGROUPED!! THEY ARE ALMOST UPON US!
STILL, WITH THY HAMMER, AND THE SWORD OF SIF--- WE SHALL YET PREVAIL!
SHOOSH!

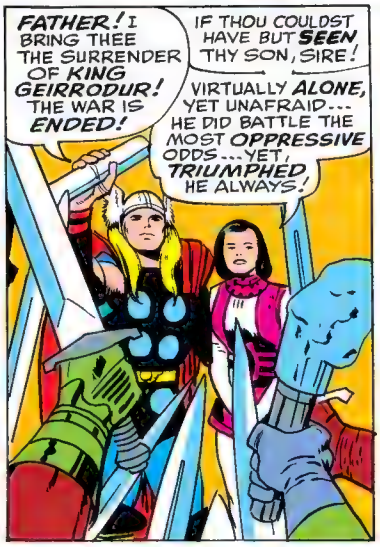
WHAT UNSPEAKABLE INFAMY IS THIS??!
THE PIT IS DARK--- COLD--- AND DESERTED!!
ORIKAL IS GONE!
THEN WE ARE LOST!! EVEN WITH HIS POWER, WE COULD NOT CONQUER ODIN!
BUT NOW.. WITHOUT IT..WE'RE DOOMED TO THE UNDER-GROUND PITS FOREVER!
NO LONGER WILL YOU CONTROL THE FLAMES BENEATH YOU!!
NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY BE USED TO TRAP ANOTHER!
THUS SPEAKS THOR!
NOW, GEIRRODUR.. STAND THEE BEFORE ME!!
BLAM!
SURRENDER--- RECALL THY HORDES--- OR FEEL THE SHATTERING MIGHT OF THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER!
I WAS SO CLOSE TO VICTORY--!! SO CLOSE!!
I CAN'T GIVE IT ALL UP NOW!!
I STILL HAVE MY ARMY.. I CAN STILL FIGHT!!
HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?
ULIK IS OVER-COME!! ORIKAL IS GONE! AND THE SON OF ODIN STANDS BEFORE THEE IN FULL POWER!
BUT YOU... AND THE FEMALE--- ARE ALONE... SURROUNDED BY THE PICK OF MY GREATEST WARRIORS!
THOUGH ORIKAL ESCAPED, WE STILL HAVE YOU!
FOOL!! THOU HAST EARS, BUT DO NOT HEAR!!
SO LONG AS MJOLNIR IS MINE...SO LONG AS ASGARD ENDURES..SO LONG AS ODIN REIGNS SUPREME---
---'TIS THOR WHO HAS THEE!!
LET US RETURN TO OUR CATA-COMBS--- THAT WE MAY PLAN FOR OUR NEXT INVASION!!
AY!! WHEN NEXT WE ATTACK, IT IS THE THUNDER GOD WHO WILL BE FIRST TO DIE!
MY LORD...SO LONG AS THEY LIVE, WE ARE IN DANGER! WHY DO YOU NOT SLAY THEM WHERE THEY STAND?
NO! 'TIS NOT THE WAY OF ASGARD!
ALL LIFE...EVEN SUCH AS THEIRS... IS PRECIOUS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING!
15.


MEANWHILE, FROM EVERY PART OF THE GOLDEN REALM, RETREATING TROLLS RACE HEADLONG INTO THE TUNNELS AND CAVERNS WHICH LEAD TO THEIR HIDDEN LANDS BELOW...!
THE TIDE HAS TURNED!! THE FORCES OF ODIN ATTACK! FLEE! FLEE! BACK TO THE DEPTHS!!
WHOOM!
PAK KOW!
THUMP! THUD! THUMM!

AND OVER ALL, THE BOOMING VOICE OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN SEEMS TO BLANKET THE LAND...
BACK TO THY STYGIAN DEPTHS, THOU BASE AND LOWLY EVIL ONES!!
THE VICTORY IS OURS... BUT, FOR ME T'WILL BE A HOLLOW ONE, FOR THE SON OF MY HEART DID NOT SHARE IT!
KNOW YE THAT ODIN SHALL BE LESS MERCIFUL ANON!

SIRE, MOST NOBLE...!
BEHOLD YON TUNNEL! WHERE ALL OTHERS HAVE FLED, THERE ARE TWO WHO APPROACH!


'TIS THY SON... THE GOD OF THUNDER!
AND WITH HIM, THE LADY SIF!
IF THEY COME FROM A TUNNEL OF THE TROLLS, THEN THE BATTLE DID NOT ELUDE HIM!
16


FATHER! I BRING THEE THE SURRENDER OF KING GEIRRODUR! THE WAR IS ENDED!
IF THOU COULDST HAVE BUT SEEN THY SON, SIRE!
VIRTUALLY ALONE, YET UNAFRAID... HE DID BATTLE THE MOST OPPRESSIVE ODDS... YET, TRIUMPHED HE ALWAYS!

FATHER... HOW STANDS ASGARD?
THE REALM ENDURES, MY SON!
AS DOTH MY PRIDE IN THEE!
SO BE IT!!
NEXT ISSUE: A NEW ENEMY ON EARTH!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

# "THE SECRET OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!"

MARK YOU WELL THIS SIGHT, O TRUE BELIEVER--FOR, THINE AWE-STRUCK EYES DO NOW BEHOLD THE MURDEROUS, MERCILESS MOGUL--SAFE WITHIN HIS HIDDEN KINGDOM, AS HE DOTH PARTAKE OF THE PLEASURES HE HATH WON BY MEANS OF PILLAGE, PILLORY, AND PLUNDER IN LANDS BEYOND NUMBER...
ENOUGH! I DO WEARY OF YON REVELS!
MOGUL HATH SPOKEN!! NOW LET ALL BEGONE!

A STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY RHAPSODIC RABELAISIAN ROMP!

INKED BY VINCE COLLETTA | LETTERED BY ART SIMEK

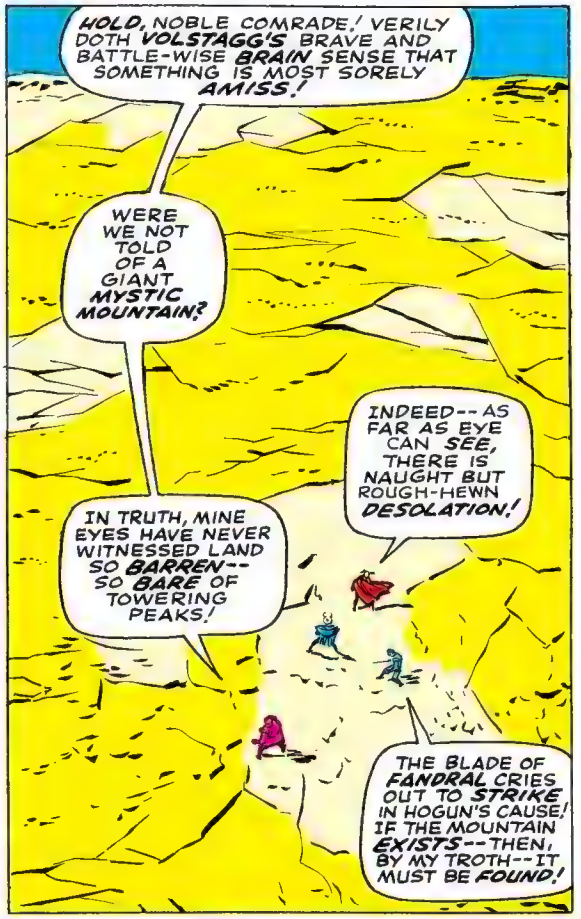
ALL HAVE DEPARTED! NOW, ABU DAKIR, TELL ME THE NEWS ONCE MORE! SPEAK, OR LOSE THE USE OF THY TONGUE --FOREVER!
OUTSIDERS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED APPROACHING THY REALM, SIRE! FOUR STRANGERS OF WHOM THERE IS NOTHING KNOWN!
STRANGERS--DARING TO ENTER MY FORBIDDEN DOMAIN?? THEY ARE SURELY MADMEN--BUT, EVEN MADNESS IS NO EXCUSE!

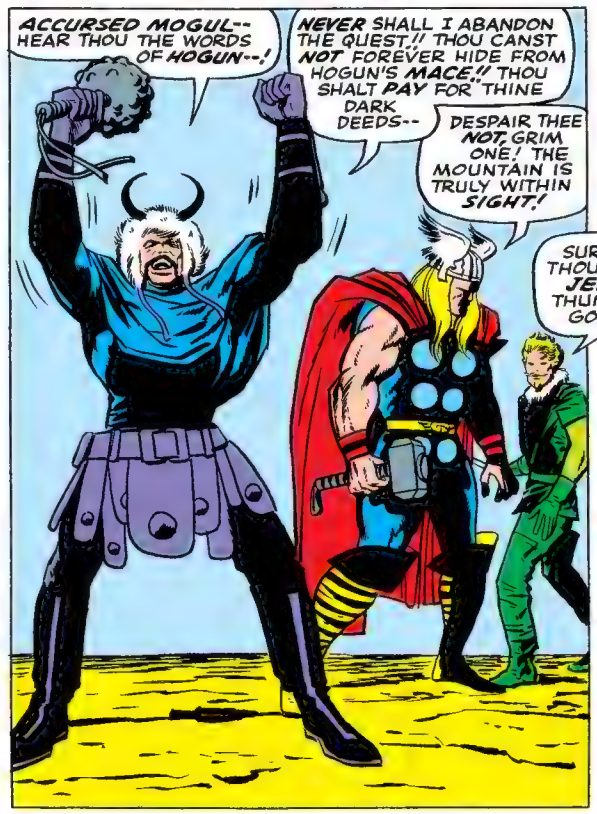
MOGUL CARES NOT WHOM THEY MAY BE--NOR WHAT THEIR PURPOSE IS!
IS IT NOT KNOWN FROM HORIZON TO HORIZON--ALL WHO ENTER THE FORBIDDEN LAND MUST END THEIR JOURNEY IN THE BARREN HALLS OF DEATH!!
THE ENCHANTED CRYSTAL!! AT MY COMMAND--LET IT RISE BEFORE ME, THAT IT MAY REVEAL THE SECRETS I WISH TO BE UNLOCKED!

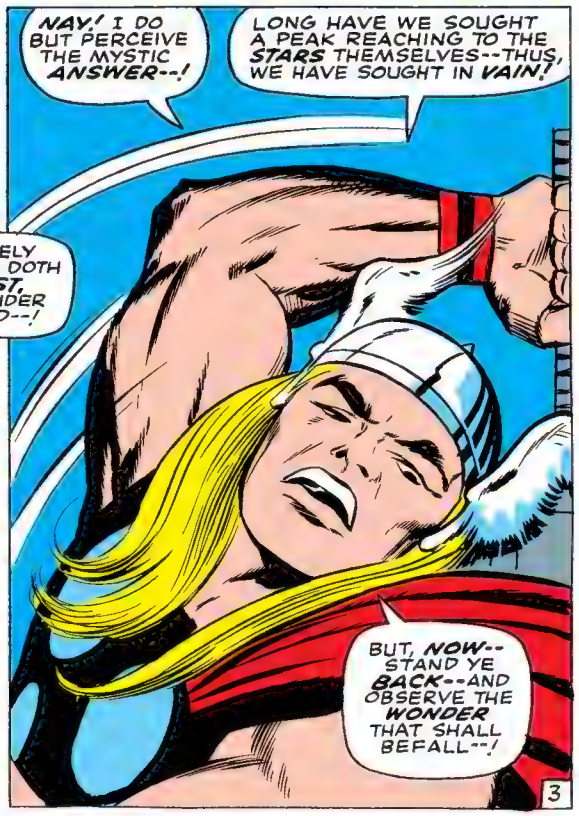
SIRE!! AN IMAGE FORMS WITHIN THE GLISTENING RADIANCE!!
BUT, SIRE--DO MINE EYES DECEIVE ME? IS NOT HE OF THE GOLDEN-HAIR THE TRUE SON OF ODIN??
'TIS AS I SUSPECTED!! THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD--GOADED ON BY MINE ARCH-FOE, HOGUN!
JUST AS I HAVE SLAIN HIS FOREBEARS, AND LAID WASTE HIS LAND, SO SHALL I DESTROY THE PRESUMPTUOUS ASGARDIANS AS WELL!

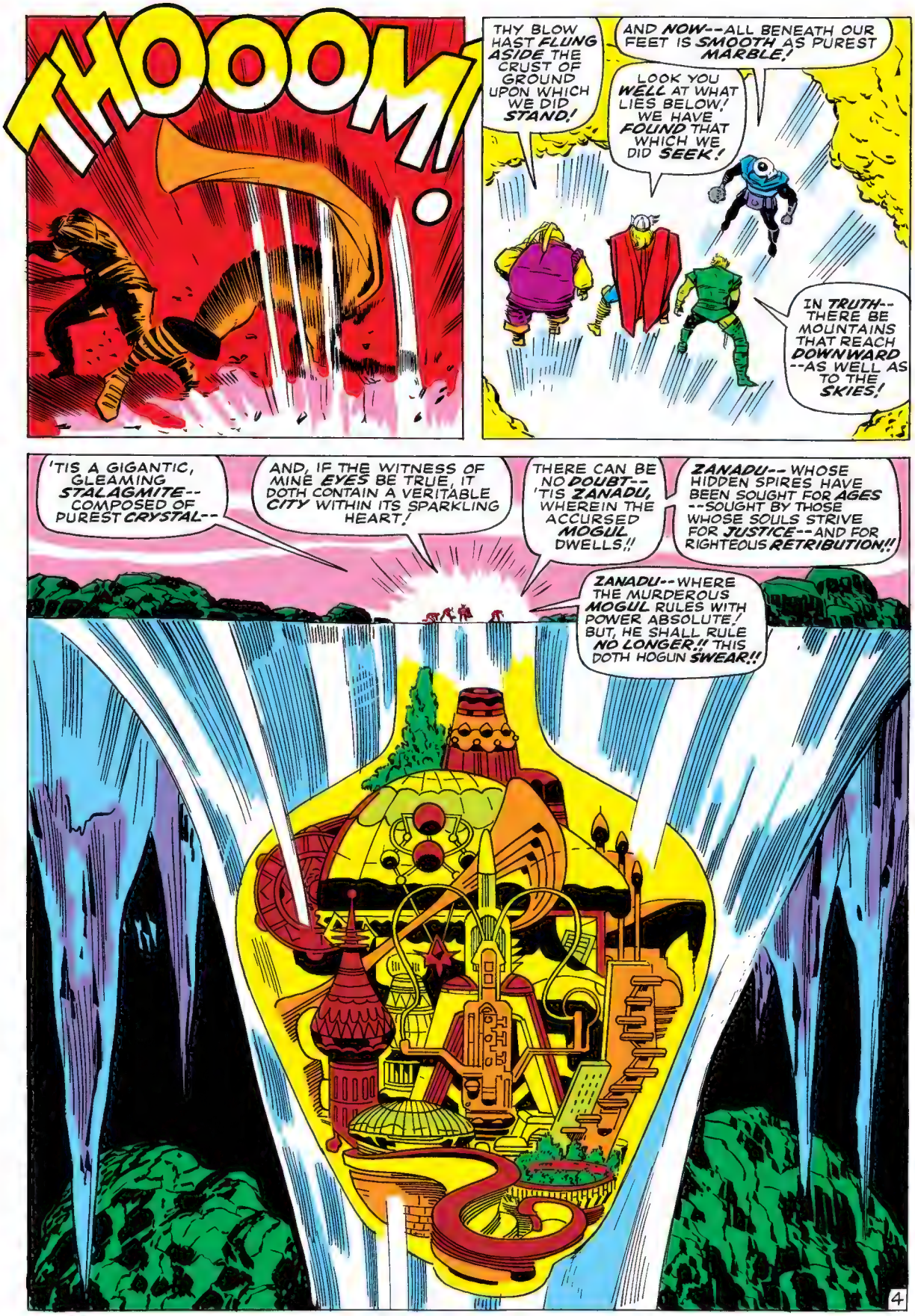
AY, BUT IT MATTERS NOT! IF HE WERE ODIN HIMSELF, HE WOULD STILL BE SO SURELY DOOMED!
JINN! DEVIL!! COME THOU FORTH! MOGUL HATH NEED OF THEE--AND THOU ART PLEDGED TO SERVE ME EVER!
NOW, LET THINE EYES BE AVERTED AS I SUMMON MY SLAVE!
I DO HEAR AND OBEY!
I HUNGER FOR BATTLE!! I THIRST FOR VICTIMS ANEW!

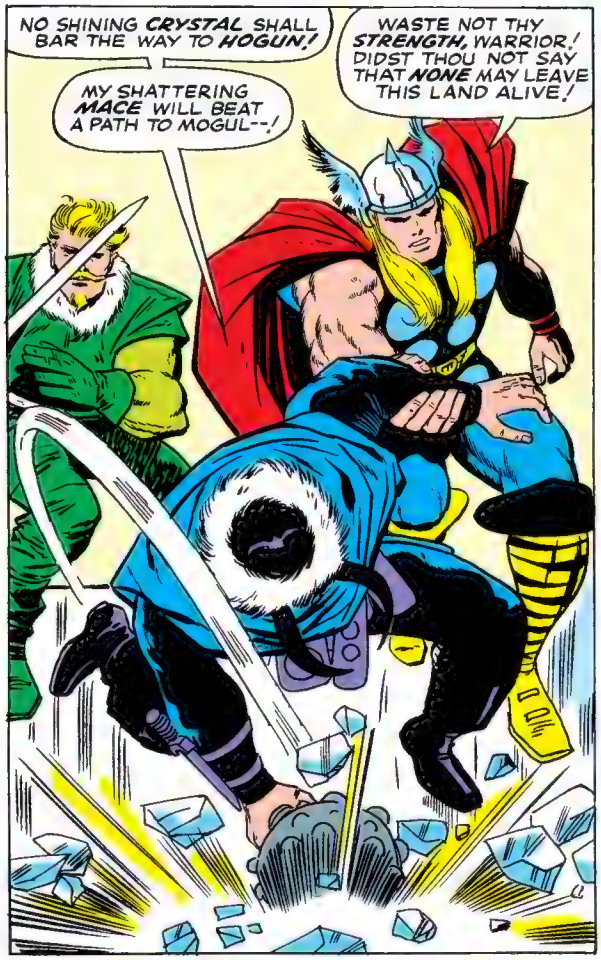
MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE VERY HEART OF MOGUL'S FORBIDDEN DOMAIN--
HAVE A CARE, WORTHY HOGUN! METHINKS A GRAVE PERIL DOTH SURELY AWAIT US!
HAVE DONE WITH THEE, THUNDER GOD! THE TIME FOR CARE IS PAST!
IS THIS NOT THE LAND WAZIR THE ANCIENT DID LEAD US TO??
IS IT NOT HERE THAT I SHALL FIND HIM WHO HATH SLAIN MY BRETHREN--HIM WHO NOW MUST FACE THE VENGEANCE OF HOGUN, THE GRIM!!


HOLD, NOBLE COMRADE! VERILY DOTH VOLSTAGG'S BRAVE AND BATTLE-WISE BRAIN SENSE THAT SOMETHING IS MOST SORELY AMISS!
WERE WE NOT TOLD OF A GIANT MYSTIC MOUNTAIN?
INDEED--AS FAR AS EYE CAN SEE, THERE IS NAUGHT BUT ROUGH-HEWN DESOLATION!
IN TRUTH, MINE EYES HAVE NEVER WITNESSED LAND SO BARREN--SO BARE OF TOWERING PEAKS!
THE BLADE OF FANDRAL CRIES OUT TO STRIKE IN HOGUN'S CAUSE! IF THE MOUNTAIN EXISTS--THEN, BY MY TROTH--IT MUST BE FOUND!


ACCURSED MOGUL--HEAR THOU THE WORDS OF HOGUN--!
NEVER SHALL I ABANDON THE QUEST!! THOU CANST NOT FOREVER HIDE FROM HOGUN'S MACE!! THOU SHALT PAY FOR THINE DARK DEEDS--
DESPAIR THEE NOT, GRIM ONE! THE MOUNTAIN IS TRULY WITHIN SIGHT!
SURELY THOU DOTH JEST, THUNDER GOD--!


NAY! I DO BUT PERCEIVE THE MYSTIC ANSWER--!
LONG HAVE WE SOUGHT A PEAK REACHING TO THE STARS THEMSELVES--THUS, WE HAVE SOUGHT IN VAIN!
BUT, NOW--STAND YE BACK--AND OBSERVE THE WONDER THAT SHALL BEFALL--!


THOOM!
THY BLOW HAST FLUNG ASIDE THE CRUST OF GROUND UPON WHICH WE DID STAND!
AND NOW--ALL BENEATH OUR FEET IS SMOOTH AS PUREST MARBLE!
LOOK YOU WELL AT WHAT LIES BELOW! WE HAVE FOUND THAT WHICH WE DID SEEK!
IN TRUTH--THERE BE MOUNTAINS THAT REACH DOWNWARD--AS WELL AS TO THE SKIES!
'TIS A GIGANTIC, GLEAMING STALAGMITE--COMPOSED OF PUREST CRYSTAL--
AND, IF THE WITNESS OF MINE EYES BE TRUE, IT DOTH CONTAIN A VERITABLE CITY WITHIN ITS SPARKLING HEART!
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT--'TIS ZANADU, WHEREIN THE ACCURSED MOGUL DWELLS!!
ZANADU--WHOSE HIDDEN SPIRES HAVE BEEN SOUGHT FOR AGES--SOUGHT BY THOSE WHOSE SOULS STRIVE FOR JUSTICE--AND FOR RIGHTEOUS RETRIBUTION!!
ZANADU--WHERE THE MURDEROUS MOGUL RULES WITH POWER ABSOLUTE! BUT, HE SHALL RULE NO LONGER!! THIS DOTH HOGUN SWEAR!!


NO SHINING CRYSTAL SHALL BAR THE WAY TO HOGUN!
WASTE NOT THY STRENGTH, WARRIOR! DIDST THOU NOT SAY THAT NONE MAY LEAVE THIS LAND ALIVE!
MY SHATTERING MACE WILL BEAT A PATH TO MOGUL--!

THEREFORE, ONCE OUR PRESENCE HERE BE KNOWN, 'TIS THEY WHO SHALL COME FOR US!
I CAN ILL AFFORD TO WAIT!! THE RAGE WITHIN MY HEART DOTH WELL UP LIKE A LIVING THING!
SO LONG AS MOGUL'S EXISTENCE DOTH PROFANE THE VERY WORLD ABOUT US--SO LONG CAN HOGUN KNOW NO PEACE!

SEE? MIGHTY THOR WAS RIGHT! AN OPENING APPEARS--LEADING DOWN INTO THE LAND OF ZANADU!
VALOROUS VOLSTAGG SHALL BE FIRST TO GO BELOW AND SOW THE SEEDS OF FEAR AMONGST THE LESSER BEINGS!
THAT NOISE--LIKE THE ROAR OF A HUNDRED DRAGONS--!
FIE UPON IT! VOLSTAGG WILL PROVE HIS GENEROSITY! I SHALL LET MY FELLOWS GAIN THE GLORY--WHILST I REMAIN ABOVE--LEST IT BE THOUGHT THAT VOLSTAGG IS THE ONLY HERO AMONGST US!
DOWN BELOW--SOMETHING MOVES--SOMETHING DOTH APPROACH--SLOWLY RISING FROM BENEATH OUR FEET--!
RROARRRR
5

YOU HAVE DARED TO CROSS THE THRESHHOLD OF DOOM!
THEREFORE, WELCOME TO ZANADU--WHERE THE PRICE OF ADMITTANCE IS--YOUR PALTRY LIVES!
THE JINN! DEVIL!!
NEXT
THE BATTLE BEGINS!

THE MIGHTY
THOR
TM
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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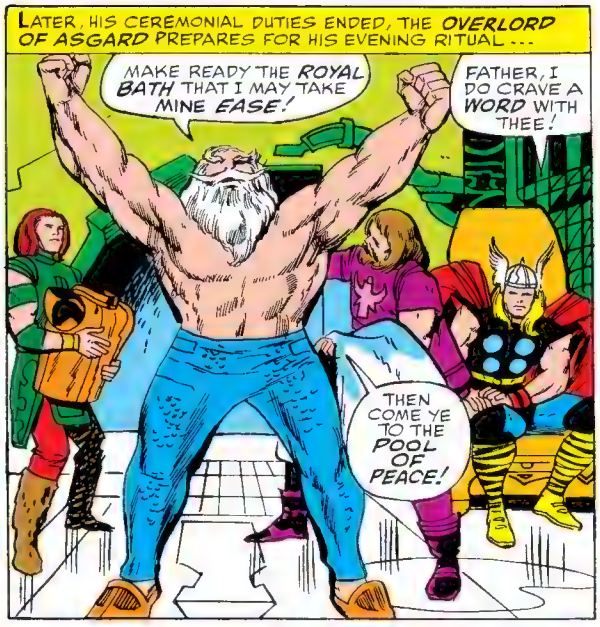
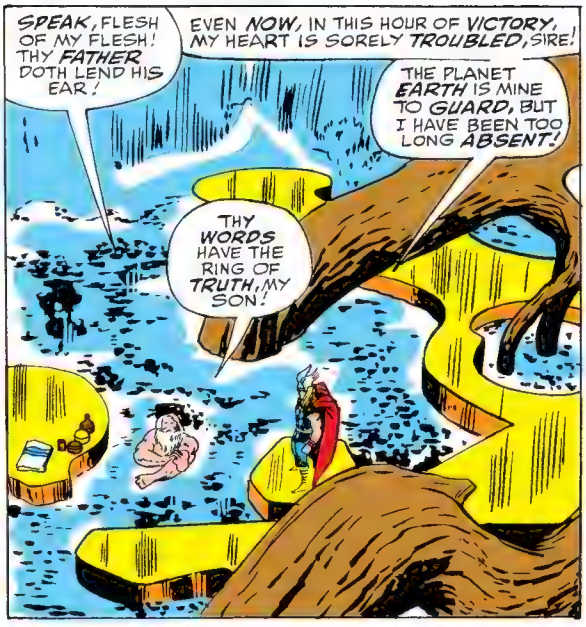
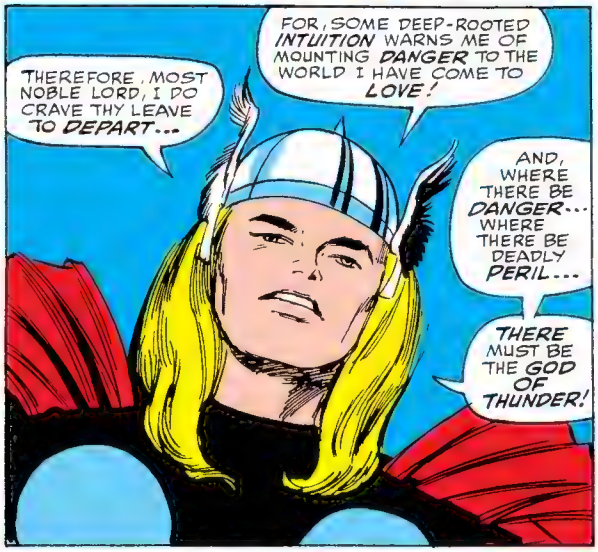
140 MAY
THE GROWING MAN

THE MIGHTY THOR!
"THE GROWING MAN!"
IN WHICH ONE OF EARTH'S DEADLIEST ENEMIES RETURNS.. WITH THE MOST UNCANNY THREAT OF ALL!!
ALL HAIL!! HAIL TO HIM WHO IS HIGHEST OF THE HIGHEST!
LET IT BE KNOWN!
THE GREAT TROLL WAR HAS BEEN WON BY THE FORCES OF ASGARD!
NOW, 'MIDST THE MOST CELESTIAL POMP AND PAGEANTRY, THE REGAL ODIN VICTORIOUSLY ASCENDS TO THE GOLDEN THRONE!
THE STAGE IS SET! THE CURTAIN IS RISEN! THE CAST ASSEMBLED! LET THE WONDERMENT BEGIN--!
CONCEIVED AND CREATED BY THE NOBLEST COLLABORATIVE COMBO IN COMICDOM:
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
INKING BY: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING BY: SAM ROSEN

ALL EYES ARE UPRAISED! ALL VOICES STILLED! AND THEN, IN TONES MOST STENTORIAN, THE VOICE OF ODIN, THE ALLWISE, BOOMS FORTH... BLANKETING THE ASSEMBLAGE WITH IMPERIAL PRAISE...
I SAY UNTO THEE.. THE GOOD FIGHT HAVE YE FOUGHT!!
THE ENEMY IS VANQUISHED! THE CAUSE IS WON! THE REALM ETERNAL STILL DOTH STAND!
SO BE IT!
AND NOW, I BID THEE, ONE AND ALL... DRAW CLOSER TO THY LIEGE!
IMMORTALS OF THE REALM ...YE MAY APPROACH THE KINGLY PRESENCE!
THANKS TO THY VALOR.. THY MATCHLESS DEVOTION.. ASGARD ENDURES!
BUT, MANY ARE THE BATTLES THAT LIE AHEAD! MANY ARE THE FOES WE YET MUST FACE! MANY THE DANGERS TO BE OVERCOME!
YET, VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE ...
WHATE'ER MAY BEFALL... WE SHALL FACE IT TOGETHER!!
THUS SHALL IT EVER BE...
ODIN, THY KING, STANDS WITH THY WARLORD, THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER! AND WITH US STANDS ASGARD... FOREVER UNITED!
NOW LET THY VOICES MAKE THE VERY HEAVENS RING..!
HAIL ASGARD!
IF YE WONDER, O TRUE BELIEVER, WHY WE DEVOTE SO MUCH TIME TO A MERE CEREMONY, 'TIS MERELY BECAUSE THIS SHALL BE OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH REVELRY BEFORE THE PANDEMONIUM OCCURS...
2.


LATER, HIS CEREMONIAL DUTIES ENDED, THE OVERLORD OF ASGARD PREPARES FOR HIS EVENING RITUAL ---
MAKE READY THE ROYAL BATH THAT I MAY TAKE MINE EASE!
FATHER, I DO CRAVE A WORD WITH THEE!
THEN COME YE TO THE POOL OF PEACE!


SPEAK, FLESH OF MY FLESH! THY FATHER DOTH LEND HIS EAR!
EVEN NOW, IN THIS HOUR OF VICTORY, MY HEART IS SORELY TROUBLED, SIRE!
THE PLANET EARTH IS MINE TO GUARD, BUT I HAVE BEEN TOO LONG ABSENT!
THY WORDS HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH, MY SON!


FOR, SOME DEEP-ROOTED INTUITION WARNS ME OF MOUNTING DANGER TO THE WORLD I HAVE COME TO LOVE!
THEREFORE, MOST NOBLE LORD, I DO CRAVE THY LEAVE TO DEPART...
AND, WHERE THERE BE DANGER... WHERE THERE BE DEADLY PERIL...
THERE MUST BE THE GOD OF THUNDER!

EVEN AS THE IMMORTAL AVENGER SPEAKS, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY, THREE MEN STARE IN BREATHLESS BEWILDERMENT AT THE SIGHT THAT GREETS THEIR STARTLED EYES...!
IS THIS SOME OUTRAGEOUS PRANK? YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD DISCOVERED A MAN THE SIZE OF A DOLL...!
I SAW HIM LAST NIGHT! I COULD HAVE PUT 'IM IN MY POCKET!
DO YOU BOTH REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING??!
HE WAS DOLL-SIZE WHEN OUR MUSEUM EXPEDITION UN-EARTHED HIM LAST NIGHT!

WE'RE AWARE HOW MAD IT SOUNDS---THAT'S WHY WE SENT FOR YOU!
NO ONE CAN GET SO BIG--SO FAST!
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THIS IS THE MOST FANTASTIC SCIENTIFIC MYSTERY OF ALL TIME!
NO ONE HUMAN.. ANYWAY!
WE CANNOT TELL WHAT AGE HE'S FROM---NOR HOW HE MANAGES TO GROW THAT WAY!

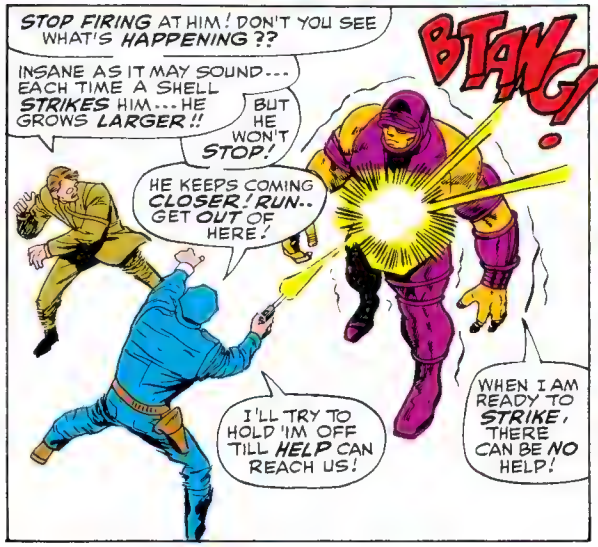
I CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHAT HIS ORIGIN IS!
HE'S ACTUALLY WARM TO THE TOUCH! HE--HE'S ALIVE!
IS HE FROM THE DIM PAST--OR--FROM SOME INCREDIBLE FUTURE??
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE CAN'T BE!

HOW CAN HE BE WARM? THIS ISN'T FLESH... IT'S ARMOR OF SOME SORT!
HERE--I'LL TAP IT AND SHOW--- WAIT!
BETTER WATCH IT THERE! I COULD'A SWORN I SAW HIM MOVE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S BEGINNING TO STIR--!

THEN SUDDENLY--UNEXPECTEDLY--- WITH DAZZLING SPEED---A HUGE ARM LASHES OUT---
HE--HE'S SEIZING ME!!
WH-WHOEVER YOU ARE---LET 'IM GO!!
LET GO OR I'LL SHOOT!!

KRAK!
THE BULLETS DON'T STOP 'IM! THEY JUST BOUNCE OFF!
WHAT IS HE?? WHAT'S HE MADE OF??

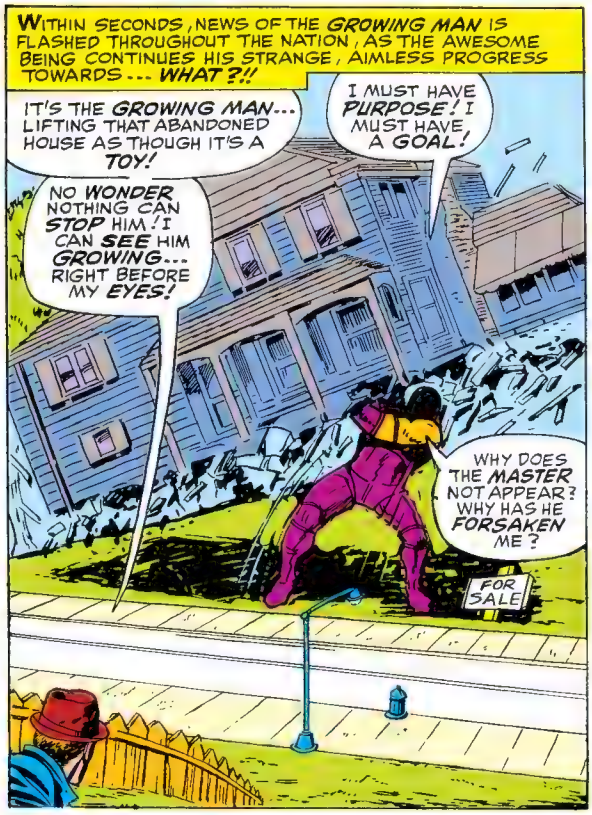
PUNY CREATURES.. BEGONE! I HAVE NO PATIENCE WITH SUCH AS YOU!
HE SPEAKS! HE HAS INTELLIGENCE!
TELL US.. WHO ARE YOU?? WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WE MEAN YOU NO HARM--!


STOP FIRING AT HIM! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING??
INSANE AS IT MAY SOUND--- EACH TIME A SHELL STRIKES HIM--- HE GROWS LARGER!!
BUT HE WON'T STOP!
HE KEEPS COMING CLOSER! RUN.. GET OUT OF HERE!
BTANG!
I'LL TRY TO HOLD 'IM OFF TILL HELP CAN REACH US!
WHEN I AM READY TO STRIKE, THERE CAN BE NO HELP!

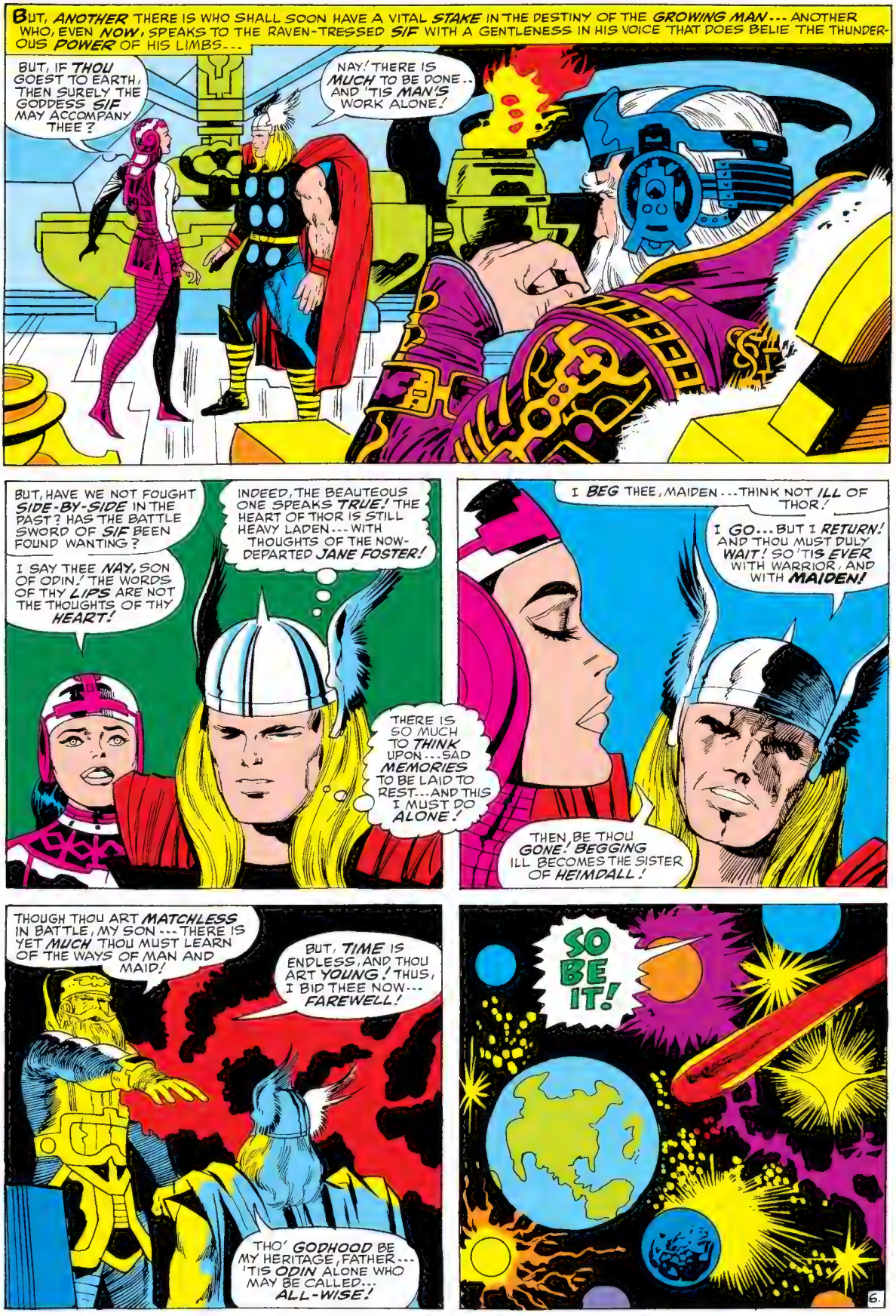
THAT'S MY LAST SHELL---AND HE'S STILL COMIN'!
I COULD CRUSH YOU LIKE A FLEA!
TAKE COVER, PROFESSOR! RUN WHILE YOU CAN!
BUT, YOU MEAN NOTHING TO ME! WHERE IS THE MASTER? IT IS HE I MUST FIND!

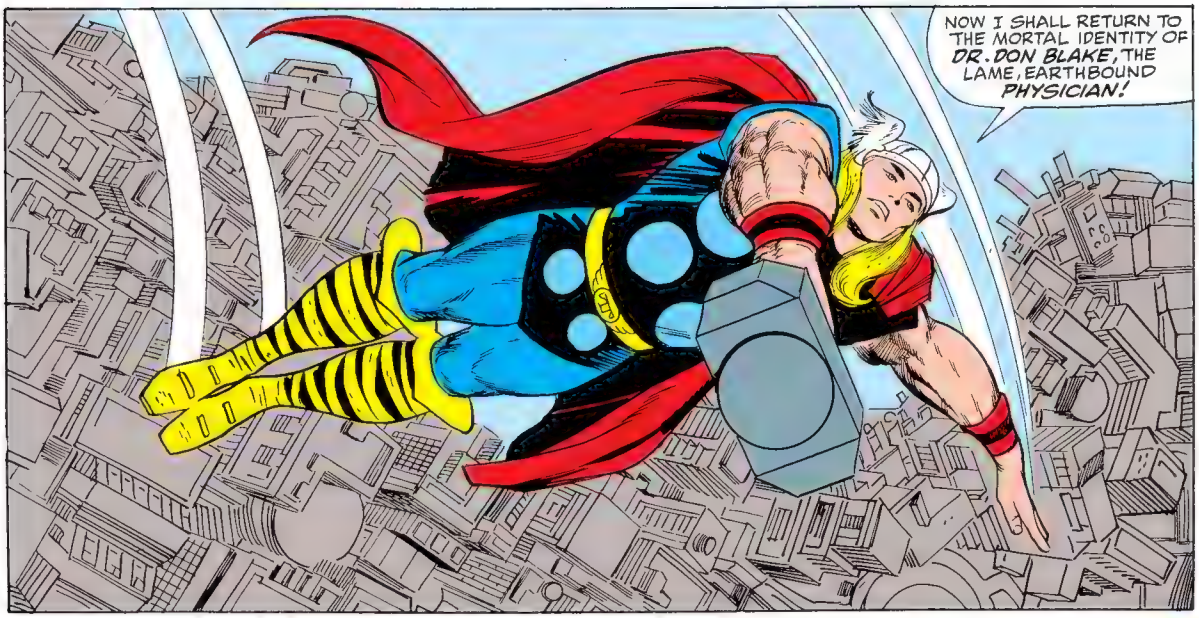
HE'S STILL GROWING!
IT'S AS THOUGH EACH NEW ATTACK STIMULATES HIS CELLS, CAUSING THEM TO DIVIDE AND MULTIPLY AT AN IMPOSSIBLE RATE!
HE'S LOST ALL INTEREST IN US! HE'S CRASHING THROUGH THE WALL ... LIKE IT'S MADE OF PAPER.. LIKE IT ISN'T EVEN THERE!
SKRAK!
I MUST FIND ... THE MASTER!

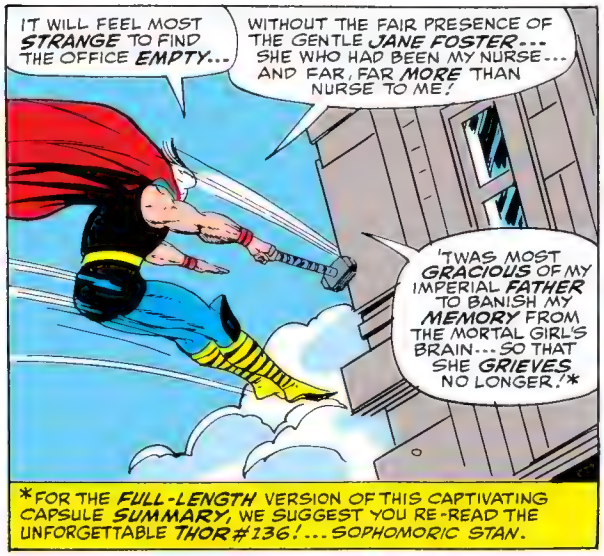
UPON REACHING THE STREET, THE NOW-GIGANTIC BEING THROWS THE ENTIRE CITY INTO A WAVE OF PANIC..!
CAN THIS BE MY INTENDED DESTINATION?
WHY DOES THE MASTER NOT APPEAR?? I MUST LEARN MY PURPOSE.. MY MISSION! ONLY HE CAN TELL ME!

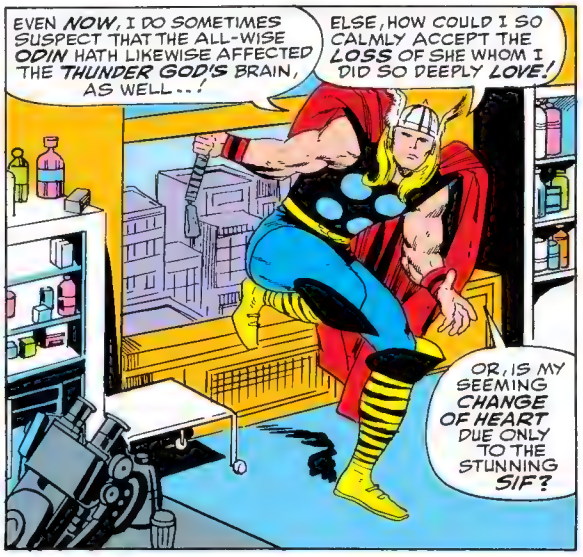

WITHIN SECONDS, NEWS OF THE GROWING MAN IS FLASHED THROUGHOUT THE NATION, AS THE AWESOME BEING CONTINUES HIS STRANGE, AIMLESS PROGRESS TOWARDS ... WHAT?!!
IT'S THE GROWING MAN... LIFTING THAT ABANDONED HOUSE AS THOUGH IT'S A TOY!
I MUST HAVE PURPOSE! I MUST HAVE A GOAL!
NO WONDER NOTHING CAN STOP HIM! I CAN SEE HIM GROWING... RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
WHY DOES THE MASTER NOT APPEAR? WHY HAS HE FORSAKEN ME?
FOR SALE

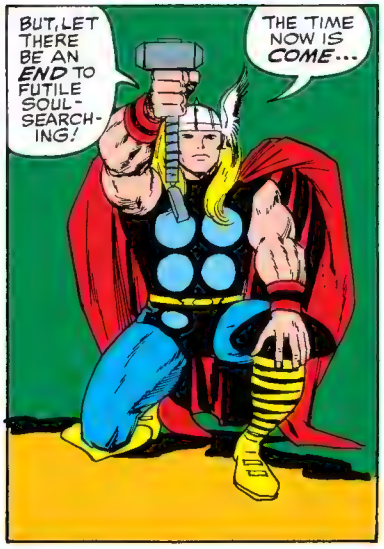
WITH EACH PASSING MINUTE I GROW BIGGER!!
SOON, I SHALL BE THE MIGHTIEST OF ALL! SOON, THE EARTH ITSELF WILL BE HELPLESS BEFORE MY BLUDGEONING POWER!
BUT, NONE BUT THE MASTER CAN GUIDE ME! NONE BUT THE MASTER CAN SHOW ME THE WAY!
FOR, IT WAS HE WHO CREATED ME! IT IS HE WHO MUST BE OBEYED!
5.

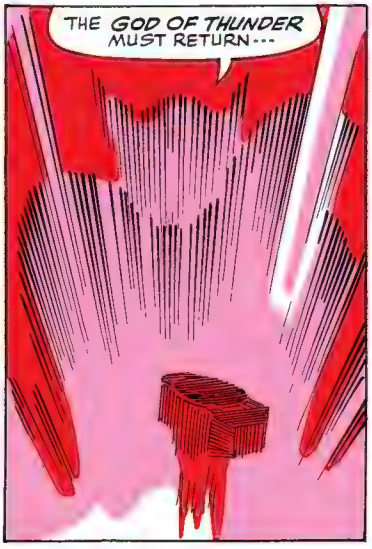

BUT, ANOTHER THERE IS WHO SHALL SOON HAVE A VITAL STAKE IN THE DESTINY OF THE GROWING MAN --- ANOTHER WHO, EVEN NOW, SPEAKS TO THE RAVEN-TRESSED SIF WITH A GENTLENESS IN HIS VOICE THAT DOES BELIE THE THUNDEROUS POWER OF HIS LIMBS ---
BUT, IF THOU GOEST TO EARTH, THEN SURELY THE GODDESS SIF MAY ACCOMPANY THEE ?
NAY! THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE .. AND 'TIS MAN'S WORK ALONE!
BUT, HAVE WE NOT FOUGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE IN THE PAST ? HAS THE BATTLE SWORD OF SIF BEEN FOUND WANTING ?
I SAY THEE NAY, SON OF ODIN.' THE WORDS OF THY LIPS ARE NOT THE THOUGHTS OF THY HEART!
INDEED, THE BEAUTEOUS ONE SPEAKS TRUE.' THE HEART OF THOR IS STILL HEAVY LADEN --- WITH THOUGHTS OF THE NOW-DEPARTED JANE FOSTER!
THERE IS SO MUCH TO THINK UPON --- SAD MEMORIES TO BE LAID TO REST --- AND THIS I MUST DO ALONE!
I BEG THEE, MAIDEN --- THINK NOT ILL OF THOR.'
I GO... BUT I RETURN! AND THOU MUST DULY WAIT! SO 'TIS EVER WITH WARRIOR, AND WITH MAIDEN!
THEN BE THOU GONE! BEGGING ILL BECOMES THE SISTER OF HEIMDALL!
THOUGH THOU ART MATCHLESS IN BATTLE, MY SON --- THERE IS YET MUCH THOU MUST LEARN OF THE WAYS OF MAN AND MAID!
BUT, TIME IS ENDLESS, AND THOU ART YOUNG! THUS, I BID THEE NOW --- FAREWELL!
THO' GODHOOD BE MY HERITAGE, FATHER --- 'TIS ODIN ALONE WHO MAY BE CALLED --- ALL-WISE!
SO BE IT!
6.

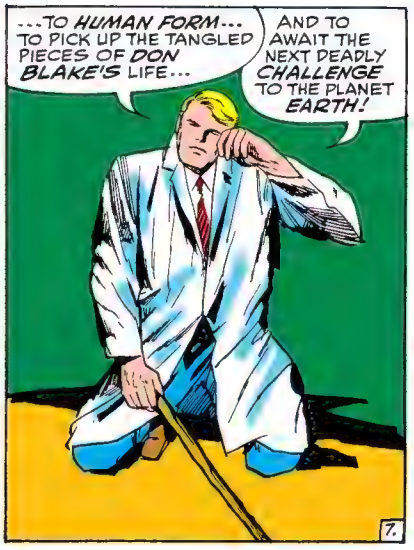

NOW I SHALL RETURN TO THE MORTAL IDENTITY OF DR. DON BLAKE, THE LAME, EARTHBOUND PHYSICIAN!


IT WILL FEEL MOST STRANGE TO FIND THE OFFICE EMPTY...
WITHOUT THE FAIR PRESENCE OF THE GENTLE JANE FOSTER--- SHE WHO HAD BEEN MY NURSE--- AND FAR, FAR MORE THAN NURSE TO ME!
'TWAS MOST GRACIOUS OF MY IMPERIAL FATHER TO BANISH MY MEMORY FROM THE MORTAL GIRL'S BRAIN--- SO THAT SHE GRIEVES NO LONGER.'*
*FOR THE FULL-LENGTH VERSION OF THIS CAPTIVATING CAPSULE SUMMARY, WE SUGGEST YOU RE-READ THE UNFORGETTABLE THOR #136!--- SOPHOMORIC STAN.


EVEN NOW, I DO SOMETIMES SUSPECT THAT THE ALL-WISE ODIN HATH LIKEWISE AFFECTED THE THUNDER GOD'S BRAIN, AS WELL--?
ELSE, HOW COULD I SO CALMLY ACCEPT THE LOSS OF SHE WHOM I DID SO DEEPLY LOVE!
OR, IS MY SEEMING CHANGE OF HEART DUE ONLY TO THE STUNNING SIF?

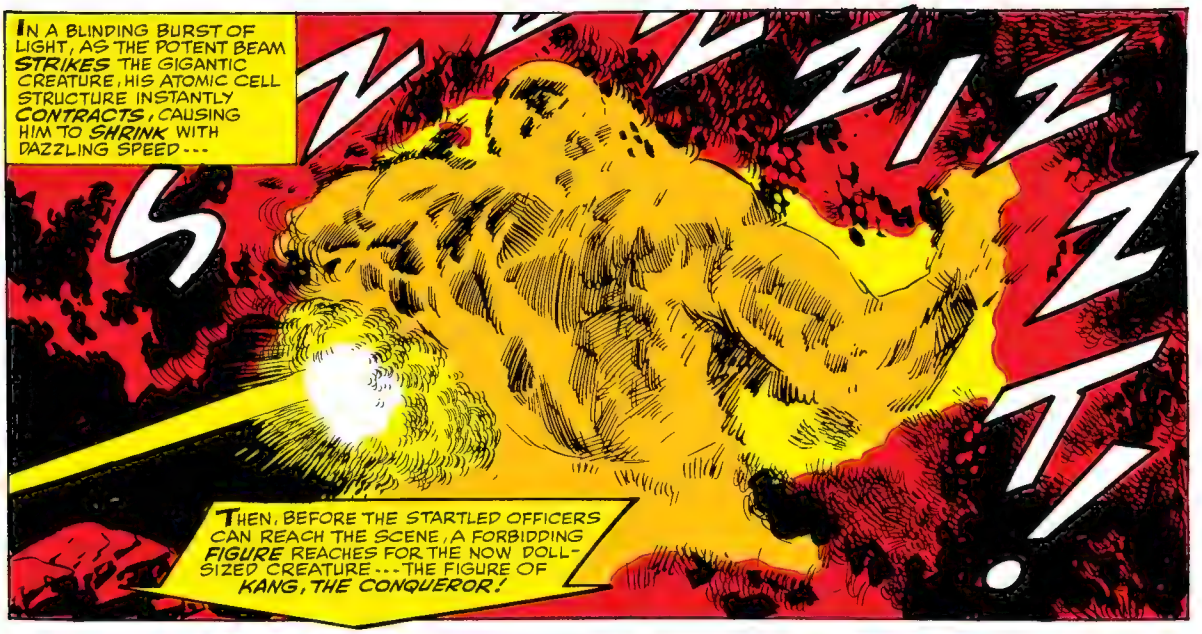

BUT, LET THERE BE AN END TO FUTILE SOUL-SEARCHING!
THE TIME NOW IS COME...


THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST RETURN---


---TO HUMAN FORM--- TO PICK UP THE TANGLED PIECES OF DON BLAKE'S LIFE...
AND TO AWAIT THE NEXT DEADLY CHALLENGE TO THE PLANET EARTH!
7.

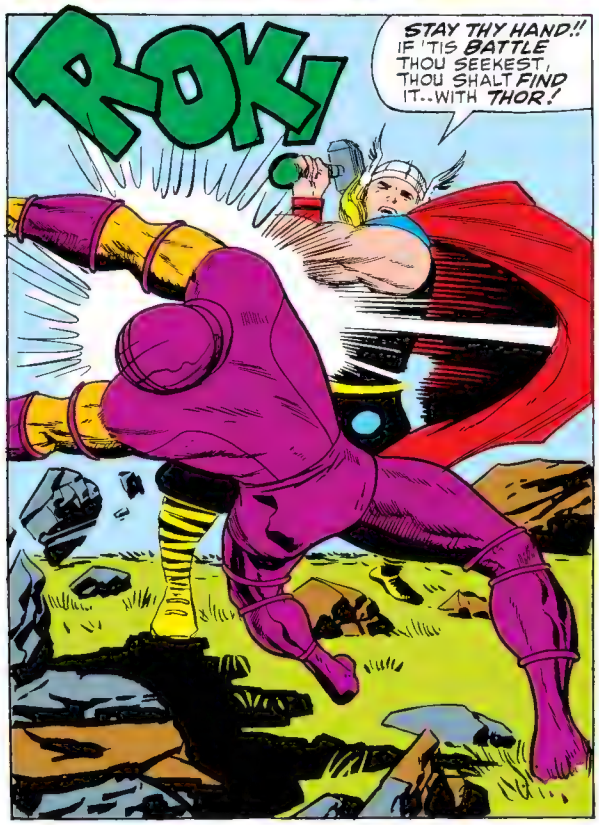
MY FACE IS THE FACE OF A SCHOLAR...A HEALER...A DEDICATED MAN OF PEACE!
AND YET...EVEN AS MIGHTY THOR HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO FIGHTING EVIL...
SO HAVE I DEDICATED MINE TO FIGHTING THE ILLS AND AILMENTS THAT AFFLICT MANKIND!
PERHAPS THAT IS THE REASON DESTINY HAS CHOSEN ME TO PLAY THE MOST FATEFUL SECRET ROLE OF ALL!
MY FILES ARE ALL IN ORDER!
LUCKILY, MY OTHER PHYSICIAN FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES FILLED IN FOR ME DURING MY ABSENCE!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE I'VE ONLY BEEN GONE A FEW DAYS!
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED THAT IT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY! AND YET...
DR. BLAKE! I..I WAS IN THE HALL FOR HOURS! I DIDN'T SEE YOU RETURN!
DONALD BLA... M.D.
IT'S OLSON, THE JANITOR! I CAN HARDLY TELL HIM I FLEW IN THROUGH THE WINDOW WITH MY ENCHANTED HAMMER!
I ARRIVED EARLY THIS MORNING, OLSON! I'VE BEEN HARD AT WORK ALL DAY, TRYING TO CATCH UP ON MY PATIENTS' RECORDS!
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK, DOCTOR! DID YOU ENJOY YOUR VACATION?
MY WHA..? OH, YES.. IT WAS VERY, EH--- VERY RESTFUL! ---JUST WHAT I NEEDED!
I, EH.. I'M NOT SURE, OLSON?
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NURSE? WHEN WILL MISS FOSTER BE BACK?
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.. I STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO FINISH.
BUT, DR. BLAKE IS ABOUT TO FIND EVEN MORE WORK THAN HE EXPECTS! FOR, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN AN EVACUATED SUBURBAN PARK---
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! HOW COULD ONE MAN HAVE DONE ALL THIS?
MAYBE THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, CHARLIE! MAYBE HE IS SOME KINDA NUTTY GIANT FROM OUTER SPACE!
I WAS HERE JUST THIS MORNING.. AND EVERYTHING LOOKED LIKE A PICTURE BOOK!
NOW, THERE'S NOT A TREE LEFT STANDING!
HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! LISTEN! UP AHEAD.. WHAT'S THAT??!
THUMP!
8.

IT'S THE GIANT!! WE FOUND 'IM!!
THRAK!
KRAK!
BACK!! ALL OF YOU! I MUST NOT BE STOPPED TILL I HAVE FOUND THE MASTER!
IT'S LIKE SOME SORT OF CRAZY NIGHTMARE!!
HE'S GETTIN' BIGGER WHILE WE'RE WATCHING HIM!
HE'S THE SIZE OF A SMALL MOUNTAIN NOW!
HE GROWS EVERY TIME HE TOUCHES ANYTHING---LIKE THAT PROFESSOR SAID!
THEN, SUDDENLY... FROM BEHIND A NEARBY BOULDER---A STRANGE WEAPON FIRES A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT..!
ENOUGH! YOUR POWER MUST NOT BE RECKLESSLY WASTED!
9


IN A BLINDING BURST OF LIGHT, AS THE POTENT BEAM STRIKES THE GIGANTIC CREATURE, HIS ATOMIC CELL STRUCTURE INSTANTLY CONTRACTS, CAUSING HIM TO SHRINK WITH DAZZLING SPEED---
SSSS

AND, IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHEN OUR HERO WILL PLUNGE INTO ACTION, HANG LOOSE, LOYAL ONE--- 'CAUSE HERE WE GO...
WE'LL BE REACHING THE SPOT IN A FEW MINUTES, DR. BLAKE!
I STILL WISH YOU'D TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO COME ALONG ON THIS JOY-RIDE WITH YOU?
IT SOUNDS SO FANTASTIC, WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT--!
BUT, YOU'VE MANAGED TO CONTACT THOR IN THE PAST---
AND, WE MAY BE NEEDING HIM AGAIN!
IF THEY'RE INTERESTED IN REACHING THOR, IT MUST BE SOMETHING REALLY BIG!
LUCKY I RETURNED TO EARTH WHEN I DID!
EVEN IF I COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE THUNDER GOD, WHAT WILL I TELL HIM?
WELL, FOR STARTERS, YOU MIGHT TRY MENTIONING A MURDEROUS GIANT, WHO GROWS BIGGER BY THE SECOND!
--ONE WHO CAN COMPLETELY VANISH IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
THEN, THERE'S A JOKER WHO CALLS HIMSELF KANG..!
KANG! THE FIEND FROM THE FUTURE!
ACCORDING TO OUR LAST REPORT, THE GIANT LEVELLED THESE TREES WITH ONE BLOW!
EVEN THOUGH HE VANISHED, THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE CORNERED KANG SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA!
LOOK SHARP, MEN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THE GIANT MAY BE RIGHT NOW!
IT ALL SOUNDS INSANE... AND YET, WHERE KANG IS CONCERNED, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!
THIS IS MY CHANCE! I'LL LAG BEHIND--- BLAMING IT ON MY LAME LEG!
ALL IT WILL TAKE IS ONE SPLIT-SECOND..
..TO STRIKE THE GROUND WITH MY INNOCENT-LOOKING CANE ---
---AND BE TRANSFORMED..
---TO THE MIGHTY THOR!!
11.

A STRANGELY-GARBED BEING...ACTUALLY RIPPING A SECTION OF EARTH OUT FROM BENEATH HIS ATTACKERS!
BUT, THOUGH HIS STRENGTH IS SUPER-HUMAN, HE IS SURELY NO GIANT!
AND, 'TIS EQUALLY CERTAIN HE IS NOT THE DEMONIAC KANG!
LOOK OUT! HE GREW AGAIN! THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!
HE WAS DOLL-SIZE JUST A MINUTE AGO... AND THEN, WHEN WE TRIED TO GRAB KANG..!
KRAK!
WE'VE GOTTA CATCH 'IM! IF HE GETS AWAY NOBODY'LL EVER BELIEVE US!
YOU DARED ATTACK THE MASTER!
EVEN THOUGH YOUR WEAPONS COULD NOT PENETRATE HIS FORCE FIELD, I MUST MAKE SURE HE IS NEVER THREATENED AGAIN!


ROK!
STAY THY HAND!! IF 'TIS BATTLE THOU SEEKEST, THOU SHALT FIND IT..WITH THOR!

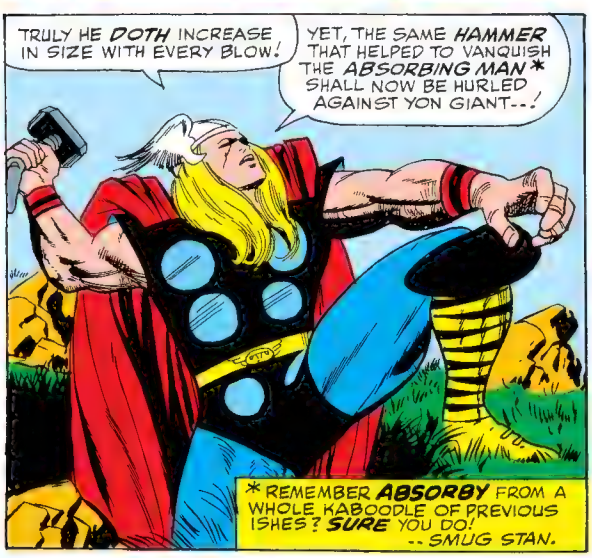
SPROOM!
THE MORE I DO STRIKE THEE, THE LARGER DOST THOU GROW!
WHAT UTTER MADNESS IS THIS?!!
'TIS AS THOUGH MY VERY BLOWS PROVIDE THEE ADDITIONAL STRENGTH!

NOW I AM BIG ENOUGH TO LIFT YOU LIKE A PEBBLE--!
AND TO SQUASH YOU LIKE A BUG!
THERE! THAT HOLE IN THE GROUND WILL BE YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE!

WHETHER I STAND AGAINST A THUNDER GOD, OR AN ARMY, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE! NONE CAN DEFEAT ME!

NONE... SAVE THOR!

BLOW!

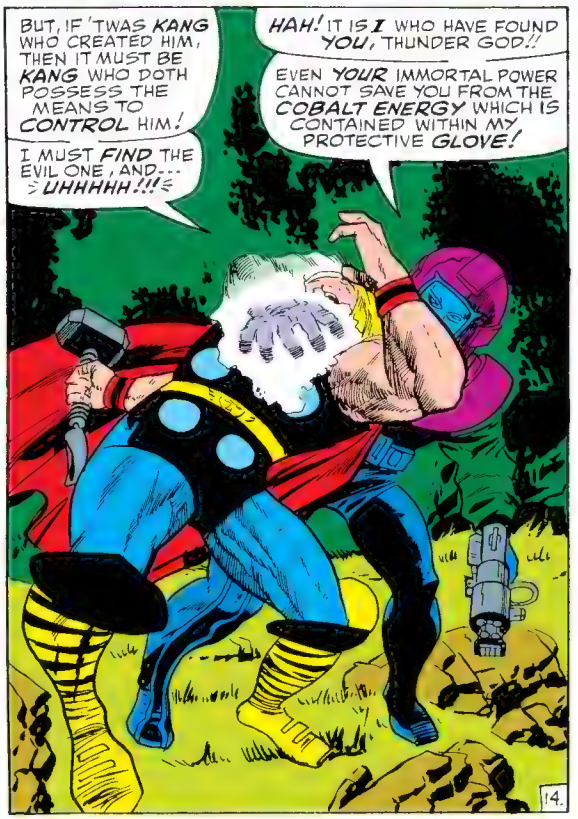

TRULY HE DOTH INCREASE IN SIZE WITH EVERY BLOW!
YET, THE SAME HAMMER THAT HELPED TO VANQUISH THE ABSORBING MAN* SHALL NOW BE HURLED AGAINST YON GIANT--!
* REMEMBER ABSORBY FROM A WHOLE KABOODLE OF PREVIOUS ISHES? SURE YOU DO! --SMUG STAN.

IN THE NAME OF ETERNAL ASGARD, I DO STRIKE!

THE HAMMER BLOW MADE HIM DOUBLE HIS SIZE!!
IT CAN ONLY MEAN--THERE'S NO WAY TO BEAT HIM!

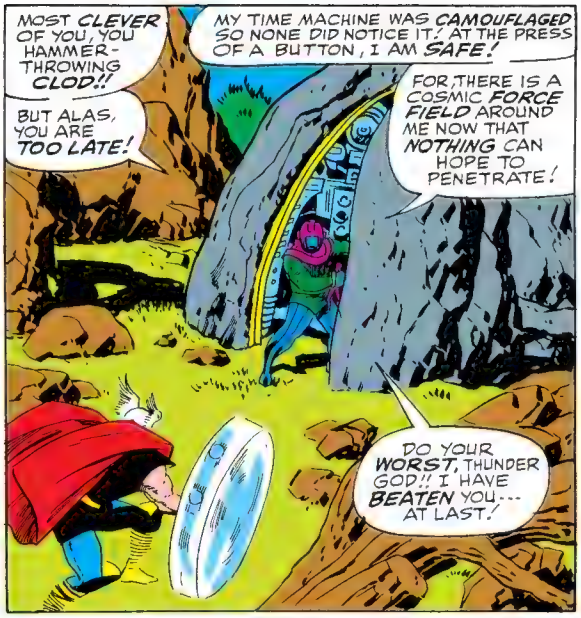
YOUR HAMMER BLOW WAS TOO POWERFUL!! IT WILL MAKE ME GROW SO LARGE, THAT EARTH ITSELF CANNOT HOLD ME!
ONLY THE MASTER CAN SAVE ME NOW!
MASTER!! WHERE ARE YOU? I NEED YOU!!

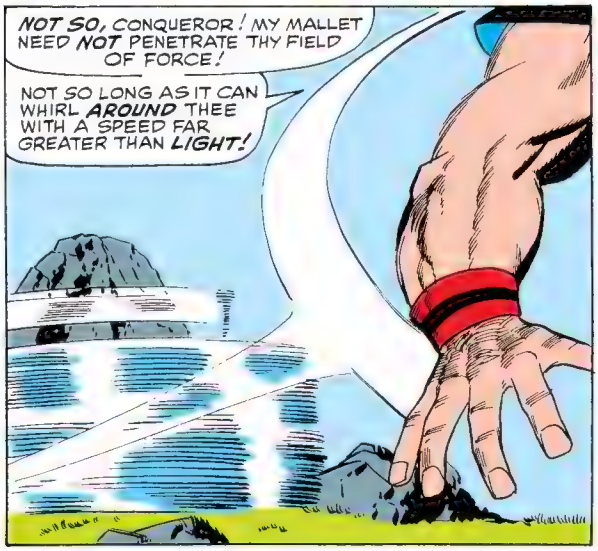
I UNDERSTAND, AT LAST!
HE IS BUT A STIMULOID, CREATED BY THE FATEFUL FUTURISTIC SCIENCE KNOWN BEST TO KANG!
A STIMULOID--A DEADLY ARTIFICIAL CREATURE, WHOSE CELLS ARE STIMULATED BY EACH NEW BLOW--CAUSING HIM TO GROW EVER LARGER!!
IF HE BE NOT STOPPED, SO DEADLY A BEING COULD CRUSH AN ENTIRE CONTINENT BENEATH HIS FEET---YEA, DESTROY THE PLANET ENTIRE!

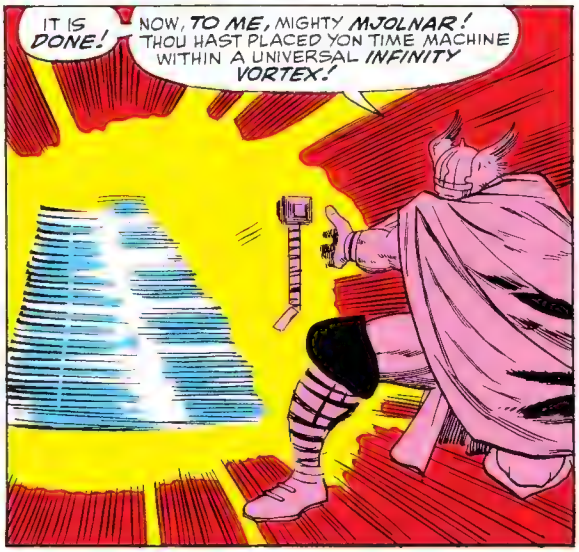

BUT, IF 'TWAS KANG WHO CREATED HIM, THEN IT MUST BE KANG WHO DOTH POSSESS THE MEANS TO CONTROL HIM!
I MUST FIND THE EVIL ONE, AND--- >UHHHHH!!!<
HAH! IT IS I WHO HAVE FOUND YOU, THUNDER GOD!!
EVEN YOUR IMMORTAL POWER CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM THE COBALT ENERGY WHICH IS CONTAINED WITHIN MY PROTECTIVE GLOVE!

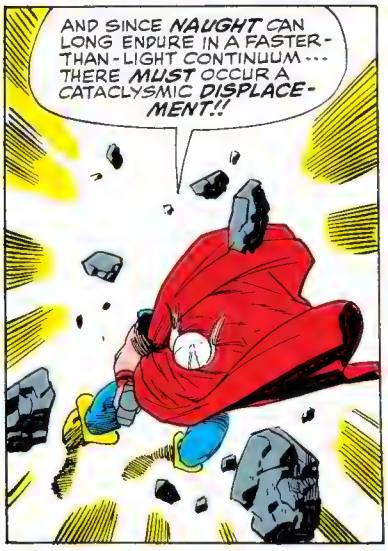
EVEN A THOUSAND TIMES A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE FUTURE, IT IS ONLY I WHO POSSESS TOTAL MASTERY OVER COBALT FORCE!..
A FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD YOU POWERLESS, AS THOUGH THE WEIGHT OF HALF A PLANET IS BEARING DOWN UPON YOU---AT THE SUPREME COMMAND OF KANG!
BUT, THIS TIME IT IS NOT YOU WHOM I SEEK TO CONQUER...
IT IS THE FORCES WHO OPPOSE ME IN MY OWN WORLD--- IN MY OWN CENTURY-- IN THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE!
THAT IS WHY I CREATED MY STIMULOID IN SECRET---HIDING HIM HERE, WHERE I THOUGHT NONE COULD FIND HIM, TILL IT WAS TIME FOR HIM TO SERVE ME IN THE CONQUEST OF THE FUTURE!
HE IS THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL TIME--- SMALL ENOUGH TO BE HIDDEN IN A POCKET---YET, ABLE TO GROW TO A SIZE BEYOND COMPREHENSION!
WHEN HE SERVES ME IN THE FUTURE, HE WILL BE SUPREME!
EACH BLOW HE RECEIVES WILL MAKE HIM LARGER!! THE MORE MY FOES RESIST, THE CLOSER THEY WILL COME TO TOTAL ANNIHILATION!!
BTAM!
"HE WILL ATTAIN A SIZE LARGE ENOUGH FOR HIM TO DEMOLISH ENTIRE FORTRESSES WITH A SINGLE STRIDE! WITHIN MERE HOURS, MY STIMULOID WILL HAVE GAINED ME---A WORLD!!"
BUT NOW, MY DE-ENERGIZER WILL RETURN HIM TO DOLL-SIZE, SO THAT HE MAY FIT INTO MY TIME MACHINE WITH ME!
THEN, WITH MY VICTORY IN THE FUTURE ASSURED, I SHALL RETURN TO YOUR BESTIAL CENTURY AND WIPE OUT ALL VESTIGE OF HUMAN LIFE---
FOR ONLY THIS VERY AGE HAS EVER SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED ME!

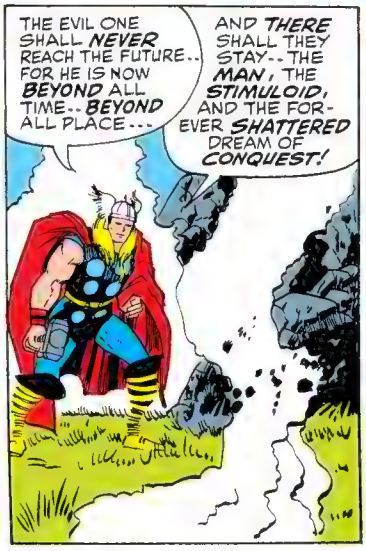
EVEN NOW, MY ENEMIES ARE SEARCHING FOR MY SECRET WEAPON ---NEVER DREAMING I HAVE HIDDEN HIM HERE---IN THE 20TH CENTURY!
THERE IS ONE THING THOU DOST NOT DREAM AS WELL, EVIL ONE!
INDEED, THUNDER GOD? AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
'TIS THE FACT THAT NO MERE COBALT FORCE CAN RESTRAIN THE SON OF ODIN!
I DID BUT HUMOR THEE, TO LEARN OF THINE INTENTIONS!


MOST CLEVER OF YOU, YOU HAMMER-THROWING CLOD!!
BUT ALAS, YOU ARE TOO LATE!
MY TIME MACHINE WAS CAMOUFLAGED SO NONE DID NOTICE IT! AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON, I AM SAFE!
FOR, THERE IS A COSMIC FORCE FIELD AROUND ME NOW THAT NOTHING CAN HOPE TO PENETRATE!
DO YOUR WORST, THUNDER GOD!! I HAVE BEATEN YOU--- AT LAST!


NOT SO, CONQUEROR! MY MALLET NEED NOT PENETRATE THY FIELD OF FORCE!
NOT SO LONG AS IT CAN WHIRL AROUND THEE WITH A SPEED FAR GREATER THAN LIGHT!

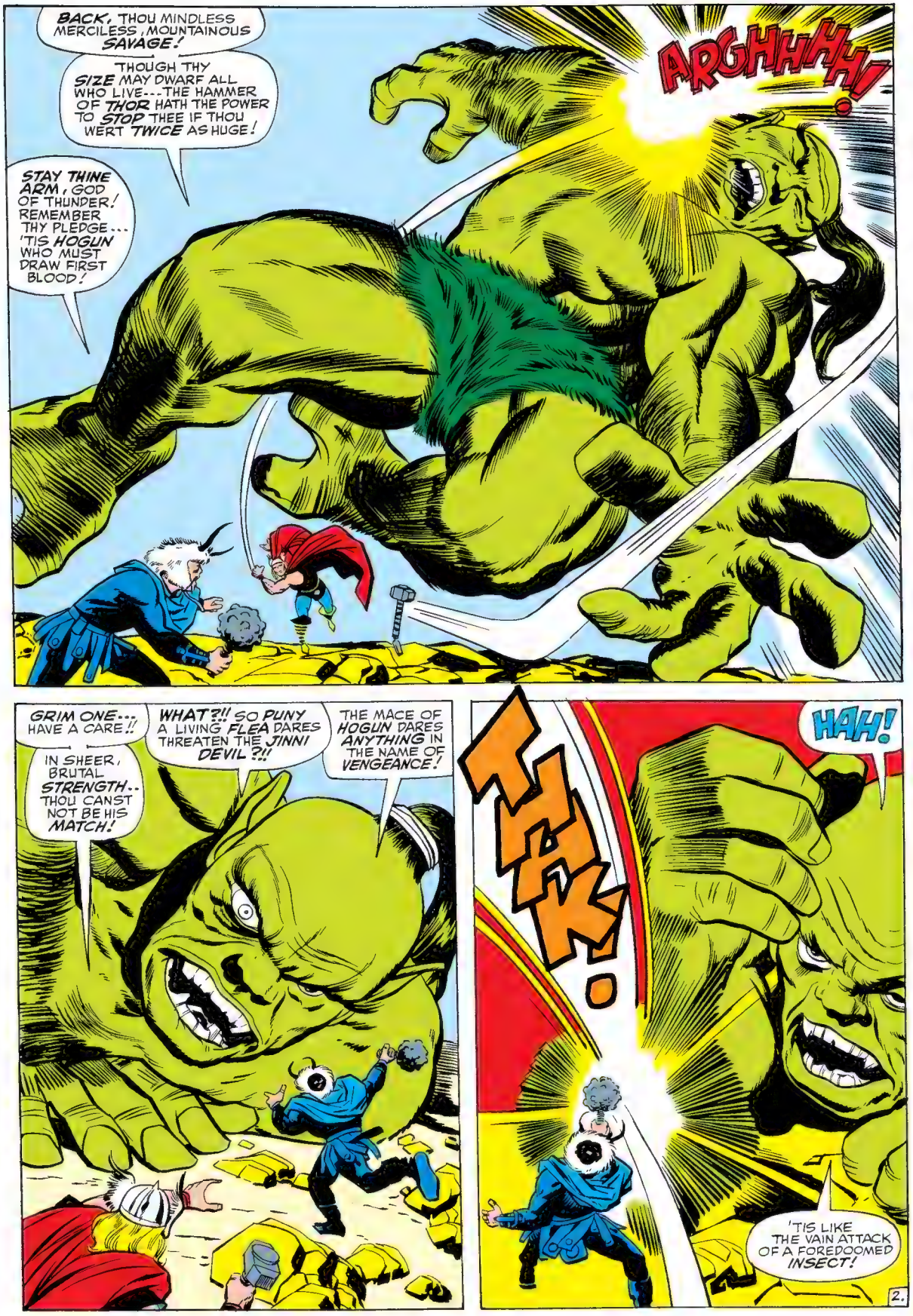

IT IS DONE!
NOW, TO ME, MIGHTY MJOLNAR! THOU HAST PLACED YON TIME MACHINE WITHIN A UNIVERSAL INFINITY VORTEX!


AND SINCE NAUGHT CAN LONG ENDURE IN A FASTER-THAN-LIGHT CONTINUUM--- THERE MUST OCCUR A CATACLYSMIC DISPLACEMENT!!


THE EVIL ONE SHALL NEVER REACH THE FUTURE.. FOR HE IS NOW BEYOND ALL TIME--BEYOND ALL PLACE---
AND THERE SHALL THEY STAY--THE MAN, THE STIMULOID, AND THE FOREVER SHATTERED DREAM OF CONQUEST!

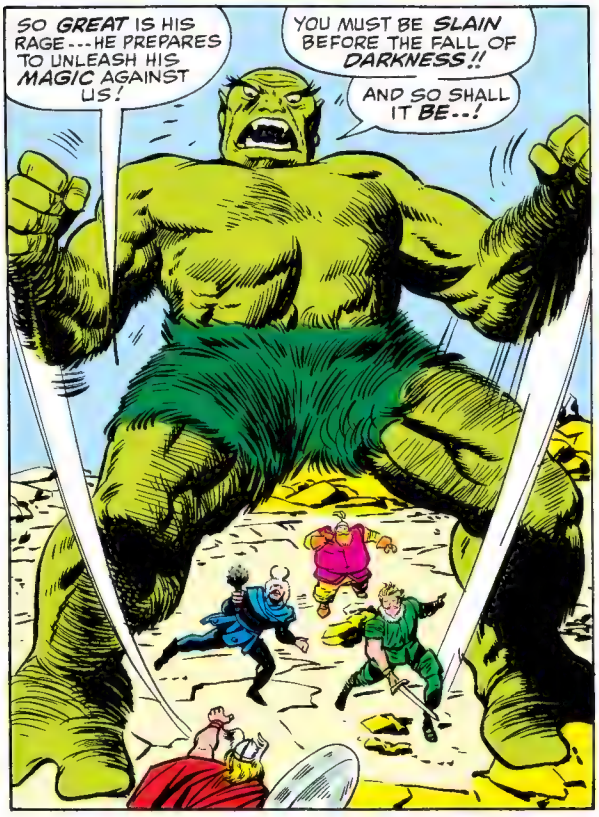
AND NOW, 'TIS TIME THAT THOR PICKS UP THE THREADS OF HIS OWN SHATTERED EARTHLY EXISTENCE-- WONDERING TOO WHAT LIES IN STORE---!
NEXT
THE MYSTERY OF REPLICUS!

TALES OF ASGARD, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS
"THE BATTLE BEGINS!"
SEARCHING FOR MOGUL OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN---HEREDITARY ENEMY OF HOGUN THE GRIM---MIGHTY THOR, AND HIS THREE IMMORTAL COMPANIONS, ARE ATTACKED BY MOGUL'S GIGANTIC SLAVE---THE MIND-STAGGERING JINNI DEVIL--!! AND NOW, LET THE GRANDEUR THUS UNFOLD---
THOOM!
TO ARMS! THE JINNI STRIKES!
A GLORY-DRENCHED MASTERWORK BY: STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY
INKING: VINCE COLLETTA * LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
CAN IT BE? HE DWARFS EVEN VOLSTAGG!!
NO MATTER HIS SIZE! THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL SHALL PUNCTURE HIM ENOW!
MOGUL!! NOT A THOUSAND JINNIS SHALL KEEP HOGUN FROM THEE!


BACK, THOU MINDLESS MERCILESS, MOUNTAINOUS SAVAGE!
THOUGH THY SIZE MAY DWARF ALL WHO LIVE---THE HAMMER OF THOR HATH THE POWER TO STOP THEE IF THOU WERT TWICE AS HUGE!
STAY THINE ARM, GOD OF THUNDER! REMEMBER THY PLEDGE... 'TIS HOGUN WHO MUST DRAW FIRST BLOOD!
ARGHHHHH!
GRIM ONE... HAVE A CARE!!
IN SHEER, BRUTAL STRENGTH.. THOU CANST NOT BE HIS MATCH!
WHAT?!! SO PUNY A LIVING FLEA DARES THREATEN THE JINNI DEVIL?!!
THE MACE OF HOGUN DARES ANYTHING IN THE NAME OF VENGEANCE!
THK!
HAH!
'TIS LIKE THE VAIN ATTACK OF A FOREDOOMED INSECT!
2.

AND NOW... THE INSECT DIES!!
NEVER, WHILST FANDRAL LIVES!
NAY, DASHING ONE... STAY THEE BACK!

WHAT?!! SHALL FANDRAL STAND BY WHEN A BROTHER-IN-BATTLE BE THREATENED?
THOUGH I HOLD LIFE MOST DEAR... LET MY BROADSWORD STRIKE!
THOU HAS STUNG HIM MIGHTILY! I AM RELEASED!
FANDRAL!! HOGUN!! TAKE TO THY HEELS!!
A STILL DEADLIER DANGER DOTH THREATEN!


SO GREAT IS HIS RAGE... HE PREPARES TO UNLEASH HIS MAGIC AGAINST US!
YOU MUST BE SLAIN BEFORE THE FALL OF DARKNESS!!
AND SO SHALL IT BE--!

DEMONS OF EVIL.. ANSWER MY CALL! LET THOSE WHO STAND BEFORE ME FALL!!
THE SUDDEN FORCE IS TOO GREAT!! I CANNOT HURL MY HAMMER!!
ZZZT!
FIE UPON THEE, HOGUN!
DESPAIR NOT! 'TWILL SOON BE DARK!
DEATH IS NO BETTER IN THE NIGHT!
BY MY BLADE.. IT MUST NOT END LIKE THIS!
3.

MEANWHILE, FAR BELOW THE SURFACE---DEEP WITHIN THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN, IN THE LAND OF ZANADU, WE FIND THE MURDEROUS MOGUL OBSERVING THE PROCEEDINGS WITH BALEFUL, BROODING EYES---
TIME IS ON THE SIDE OF THE INVADERS!
BY DAWDLING TOO LONG WITH HIS ASGARDIAN FOES, THE JINNI DEVIL HAS MADE A FATAL MISTAKE!

IN TRUTH, MASTER--- WITH THE FALL OF NIGHT, THE TEMPERATURE DOTH CHANGE THE VERY BODY FABRIC OF THE MINDLESS JINNI!
AY!! HE MUST SLAY THEM ALL BEFORE THE FIRST SHADOW IS SEEN--- ELSE IT SHALL BE TOO LATE!
'TIS BECAUSE OF THAT ONE WEAKNESS--AND THAT ALONE.. THAT ALL THE OTHER JINN HAVE PERISHED.. AND HE IS THE LAST OF THE ANCIENT RACE!
BUT, MINE EYES HAVE SEEN ENOUGH!
MIGHTY MOGUL NEED HAVE NO CONCERN!

AM I NOT TRULY THE STRONGEST OF ALL?
HAVE I NOT CAPTURED MORE BATTLE STANDARDS THAN ANY WHO LIVE?!!
HAH! THIS IS WHY HOGUN HUNTS ME--!

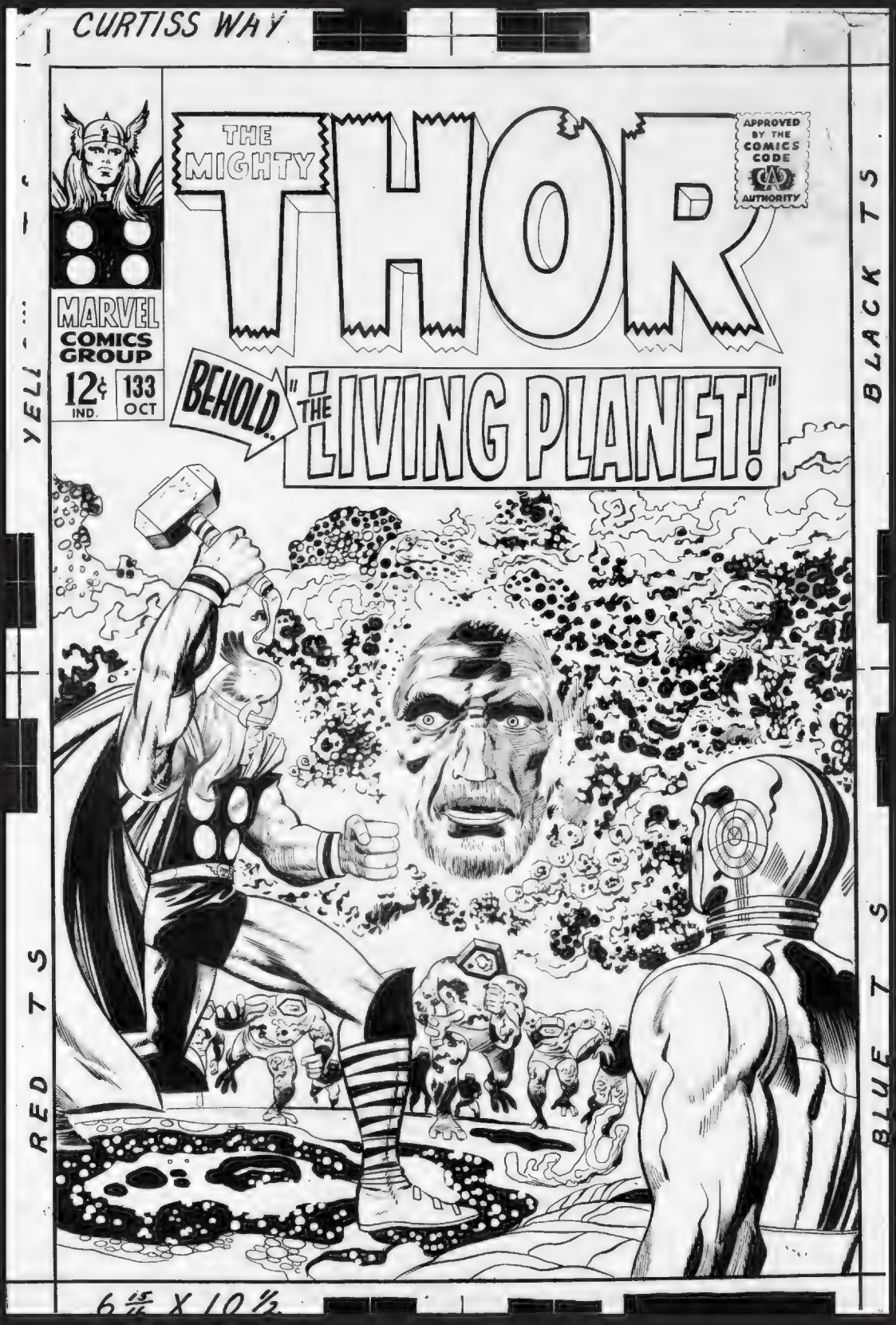
THIS IS THE BATTLE STANDARD OF HIS OWN VANQUISHED TRIBE--!
THE TRIBE WHICH MOGUL FELLED, LO, THOSE MANY YEARS AGO!
IF HE SURVIVES THE JINNI'S ATTACK--'TIS THIS THAT SHALL DESTROY HIM---
THUS CRUSHING HIS ACCURSED SPIRIT FOREVER!
FOR, MYSTIC MOGUL CAN NEVER TASTE DEFEAT!

AND, EVEN AS MOGUL SPEAKS... AS THE SWIFTLY-SPREADING SHADES OF NIGHT BEGIN TO BLANKET THE ENCHANTED LAND...
NO!! NO!! IT IS TOO SOON!...TOO SOON--!
THE SHADOWS MUST NEVER STRIKE ME BEFORE TOTAL VICTORY BE MINE...!!
LOOK!! HE TURNS TO DRIFTING SMOKE BEFORE OUR EYES...!!
HE IS GONE!!
BORN AWAY ON THE WINDS OF EVENING LIKE A GREAT, GHASTLY WRAITH... NEVER TO RETURN!
AGAINST THE MIGHT OF ASGARD, HIS STRENGTH AVAILED HIM NAUGHT!
AND, WHEN SEEKING TO ENCHANT US, HE FELL VICTIM TO HIS OWN MYSTIC MADNESS!
BUT, WE DARE NOT PAUSE..!
FEARLESS VOLSTAGG AGREES! LET US FORTHWITH RETURN TO THE GOLDEN REALM!
NAY, VOLUMINOUS ONE! THE MISSION IS NOT YET ENDED.. WHILST MOGUL LIVES!
THEN WAIT FOR VALOROUS VOLSTAGG!! I CANNOT LET THEE FACE NEW DANGERS WITHOUT LENDING THEE MY MIGHT!
MIGHT, INDEED!! THOU ART BUT FEARFUL OF REMAINING ALONE, THOU OVERSTUFFED BUMPKIN!
BEYOND THESE STEPS LIES ZANADU ...AND THERE SHALL HOGUN FIND HIS FINAL DESTINY!
WHATE'ER SHALL NOW BEFALL... GRIM HOGUN WILL FACE IT FIRST...
AND SORELY DO I PRAY THAT HIM WHO FIRST CONFRONTS US BE... THE MERCILESS MOGUL!!
FOR, KNOW YOU THIS... THOUGH HE BE WARLOCK SUPREME... HE SHALL FALL BY THE MACE OF HOGUN.. ELSE WILL I PERISH IN THE STRIVING!
SUCH IS MY MISSION-- SUCH IS MY VOW!
NEXT "ALIBAR, AND THE FORTY DEMONS!"
5.

*The Mighty Thor* #132 cover original art
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

*The Mighty Thor* #133 cover production photostat displaying the orignal rendition of Ego the Living Planet's face



*The Mighty Thor* #137, page 4 original art
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta

THOR 137
4
HIS ARM! HOLD HIS ARM SO HE CANNOT USE HIS HAMMER!
DEATH TO THE THUNDER GOD---IN THE NAME OF THE UNBEATABLE TROLLS!
NAY, MIGHTY THOR! AN IMMORTAL DOES NOT FLEE!
WHILST THE BATTLE DOTH RAGE, THE BLADE OF SIF SHALL STRIKE... SO LONG AS LIFE ENDURES!
RUN, SIF... SAVE THYSELF! THOR SHALL KEEP THEM FROM THEE!
HIS HAMMER! SEIZE YE HIS HAMMER!
BUT THEN, BRACING HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES AGAINST THE TITANIC POWER OF THE TROLLS, THE THUNDER GOD HURLS THEM FROM HIM IN A PAROXYSM OF SURGING RAGE--!
BEGONE, YE CREATURES OF EVIL!
COURAGE, FAIR SIF! TO THY SIDE RACES THOR!
FOR ASGARD... AND JUSTICE!
4.

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

# BIOGRAPHIES

## STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust in to the Depression-era economy. Meanwhile, Martin Goodman's Timely Comics needed staff, and Stan, Goodman's wife's cousin, joined as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so for his comic book work he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

He quickly graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories, and before long his proficiency on the job earned him the position of managing editor while still a teenager. His tenure in the '50s saw the company's expansion (under the name Atlas) to include horror, crime, Western, war, satire and romance comics.

All this was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists including the formidably talented Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to find a way to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Lee figured he would co-opt the super-hero revival at DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Marvel's heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just as the average person might.

Lee's innovation sent shock waves throughout comics, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold. Under his direction, the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor, Doctor Strange and the Incredible Hulk flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Lee developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus broadening the story possibilities for eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Lee also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Lee wrote virtually every comic that Marvel published during the '60s. But when he was promoted to publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Lee has returned to write scripts for the occasional single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. His standing in the field was recognized with his induction into the Eisner Hall of Fame in 1994, and to this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

## JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 and grew up in New York's gritty Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the name Jack Kirby, but his experiences in the neighborhood would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations would never dream of going.

After early strip work helped get his name out to employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed Captain America for Timely Comics, and Kirby immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon and Kirby were working at National/DC, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like Sandman and Manhunter. He served honorably in World War II, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

After the war, Simon and Kirby established the romance genre with *Young Romance*, produced titles including *Boy's Ranch*, *Black Magic* and *Fighting American*, and started their own imprint, Mainline. Kirby followed with *Challengers of the Unknown*, Green Arrow and the strip *Sky Masters of the Space Force*. By 1958, he began a prolific output at Atlas/Marvel that covered Western, war and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Kirby brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled action and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters.

Through it all, he earned the nickname "The King," and his way of doing things became so popular that it set the tone throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated on to books by working over Kirby's layouts. Kirby left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling scripting chores as well as art duties. His "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the late '70s to lend his imagination to *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur* and *Machine Man*. He also returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Kirby was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 1987 inaugural class and continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

Biographies researched and written by John Rhett Thomas

# THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS LIBRARY

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THE UNCANNY X-MEN VOLS. 1-8

## THE MARVEL AGE

It was August 1961 and change was hitting the newsstands. *Fantastic Four* #1 did not feature the squeaky-clean heroes of yesteryear. These were real characters placed in extraordinary circumstances. They lived together, they fought among themselves—and sometimes, they even lost to the bad guys. This was more than a change in attitude: It was the beginning of something entirely different—the Marvel Age of Comics!

Thanks to the fertile imaginations of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, an unending list of heroes followed the FF with ever-increasing acclaim and popularity: the Amazing Spider-Man, the Mighty Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Daredevil, Iron Man and the X-Men, to name but a few. These were the Marvel heroes, born of conflict and a continuous struggle to balance human lives with superhuman responsibilities.

The *Marvel Masterworks* series was created to give comic-book readers everywhere the chance to experience the greatest comics the world has known as they were originally presented.

## THE GOLDEN AGE

As the Great Depression wore on and the specter of war hung over the heads of all Americans, a new entertaining escape from the newspapers' horrifying realities was born: the comic book. Within their four-color pages, larger-than-life super heroes could make short work of America's foes, giving readers of all ages hope for victory against the real-life enemies that faced the United States.

At the forefront of this new medium was Timely Comics, a young company staffed by such legendary talents as Carl Burgos, Bill Everett, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and Stan Lee. These skilled writers and artists created a vast array of characters that would give rise to the Marvel Universe!

GOLDEN AGE ALL-WINNERS VOLS. 1-4
GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA VOLS. 1-6
GOLDEN AGE DARING MYSTERY VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS VOLS. 1-7
GOLDEN AGE MYSTIC COMICS VOL. 1
GOLDEN AGE SUB-MARINER VOLS. 1-3
GOLDEN AGE U.S.A. COMICS VOLS. 1-2
GOLDEN AGE YOUNG ALLIES VOLS. 1-2

## THE ATLAS ERA

Seeing super heroes waning, Timely Comics evolved into Atlas Comics and took on a vast new range of genres: science-fiction tales of outer space adventures and unimaginable monsters; realistic war comics; buxom jungle heroines; horror comics that would become the center of a moral panic that rocked the industry; and romance comics for the emerging teen audience. Even the classic costumed heroes of the '40s retooled to take on the threat of Communism. From Western gunfighters to crime to horror, Atlas had it all!

ATLAS ERA BATTLEFIELD VOL. 1
ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT/YELLOW CLAW VOL. 1
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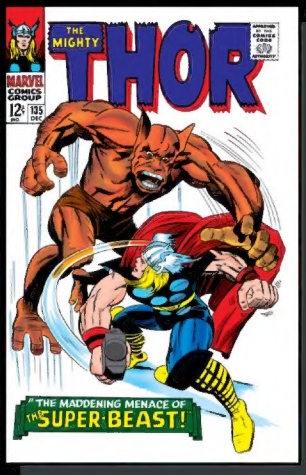

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